SPORTS / A21

Tiger foils Di Marco again, takes NEC title for 5th Tour victory

NEWS / A5

BI exec blames 'smear campaign' for Garci report

METRO / A19

MRT, LRT to start midnight runs

ENTERTAINMENT / A28

Dollywood: Maui, Joyce clash in 'Extra Challenge'

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, August 23, 2005 ★★ 42 pages / 3 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 256 P18

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ENVIRONMENT Secretary Michael Defensor says President Arroyo is willing to cut short her term. *(Story on Page A8.)*

JOAN BONDOC

President woos tycoons to her advisory group

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is forming a new advisory group made up of the country's business leaders to rebuild her ties with big business, a significant bloc of which recently joined the rising clamor for her to resign amid the "Gloriagate" and "Juetengate II" scandals.

PRESIDENT/ A8

Bro. Mike: GMA open to joint rule with foes

Estrada says GMA will leave in stroller

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada said his successor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, was doomed to share his fate as he rebuffed her attempts at political reconciliation.

"Ferdinand Marcos left (Malacañang) by plane. I left by boat. She will leave by stroller," he said, in a joking reference to Ms Arroyo's height of 4'11".

He said he had "a room specially prepared for her, and a pony, too," in reference to his house arrest while being tried on plunder charges.

For two years, Estrada has been confined to his 15-hectare, 14-bedroom villa in Tanay, Rizal, east of Manila, which he shares with a stable of retired racehorses and ducks.

Estrada predicted Ms Arroyo's hold on power wouldn't last long, based on his own experience.

"I was confident, too," of not being ousted. "In fact, overconfident," the former film star told the South China Morning Post in an interview.

Estrada was ousted by a military-backed popular revolt in 2001 due to a corruption scandal and replaced by then Vice President Arroyo.

He is being tried on charges of plundering P4 billion in taxes and illegal gambling payoffs but has been allowed to stay under house arrest at his vacation home outside the capital. He has denied the charges.

Estrada has also consistently d

ESTRADA/ A6

WATER POWER
President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects the dam spillway of the Angat hydroelectric power plant in Barangay San Lorenzo in Norzagaray, Bulacan. She was accompanied by Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla. EDWIN BACASMAS

Senators balk at Cha-cha consultative body

By TJ Burgonio and Christine O. Avendaño

A BIPARTISAN opposition emerged in the Senate yesterday against a Malacañang move to create a 50-member consultative commission to help lawmakers shift the country to a parliamentary system, likening the initiative to "putting the cart before the horse."

But Dr. Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines, said the three and a half months Malacañang had given the commission to complete its task was "reasonable."

The 77-year-old Abueva said his group, the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines, had been doing research work for the past six years on Charter amendments, going around the country and consulting with people.

"So it's easy to finalize what we have been doing all along," Abueva said in a phone interview.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has named Abueva to the panel that would put substance to her proposal during her State of the Nation Address on July 25 to move the country from the presidential to a federal-type parliamentary system. She said the political system had become a "hindrance to national progress."

On Sunday, Malacañang announced that an executive order had been issued directing the creation of the commission that would begin work on Sept. 15

SENATORS/ A8

Opposition to get 60 % of Cabinet positions

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

EL SHADDAI leader Bro. Mike Velarde has come up with a formula aimed at ending the political crisis.

Velarde said he had proposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo the formation of a "coalition government" with opposition parties getting 60 percent of the Cabinet posts, and amending the Constitution to allow for the holding of general elections in 2007.

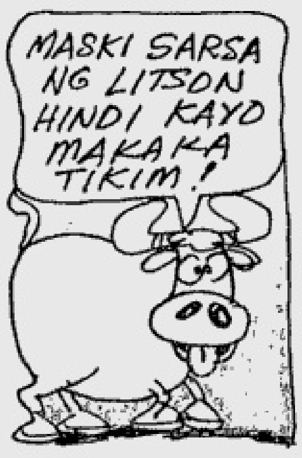
He said the coalition government could include the best representatives of the ruling Lakas-CMD, Partido ng Masang Pilipino of deposed President Joseph Estrada, Nationalist People's Coalition of business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and the Liberal Party chaired by Senate President Franklin Drilon, who had demanded that Ms Arroyo step down.

Velarde said the President was "receptive" to the idea of a coalition government and to elections in 2007 that would cut her six-year term by half.

"She is open to discussing this. We've been discussing this for some time now," Velarde said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

Velarde said his proposals

BRO. MIKE/ A8


MASKI SARSA NG LITSON HINDI KAYO MAKAKA TIKIM!

Proimpeach solons want pork, too

By Philip C. Tubeza

BUT WHAT about us?

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico and Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño yesterday slammed the release of road users' tax funds to administration congressmen while proimpeachment lawmakers got zilch.

"We are disturbed by these lopsided releases that apparently favor administration allies. Considering that they

PROIMPEACH/ A6

Rights mission joins call for GMA ouster

By Philip C. Tubeza and Luige A. del Puerto

LONG before the Senate could try President Macapagal-Arroyo for impeachment, a group of international human rights advocates have found her guilty of numerous human rights violations and concluded that she should be ousted.

The group held an International People's Court (IPC) at the Film Center of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, on Aug. 19 and concluded that Ms Arroyo should be "perpetually barred" from holding public office.

The IPC was endorsed by well-known leftist personalities, like scholar Noam Chomsky of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"In the eyes of the world, Ms Arroyo is now in the infamous pantheon of human rights violators. If only for this, she should be immediately impeached by the House and convicted by the Senate," said Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo.

Ocampo joined the human rights advocates in turning over the evidence they had gathered to

RIGHTS/ A6

MEMBERS of the International People's Court present their evidence of human rights violations to the House of Representatives, where an impeachment complaint against President Arroyo has been filed. JOAN BONDOC

Opposition says GMA phoning solons for support

By Philip C. Tubeza

SHE IS at it again.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has been calling not just congressmen but also their families, friends and political associates in an effort to squash the impeachment complaint against her, opposition lawmakers said yesterday.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio said that many congressmen had reported to the impeachment prosecution team that they, and their relatives and allies, had received personal calls from the President.

Escudero said Ms Arroyo should stop this "interference," adding that she had called more than half of 236 House members to ask them "not to sign the impeachment complaint."

"That is impinging upon the independence of Congress and the credibility of the entire process," he said.

Custodio said some of the congressmen reported that the President called them "on a daily basis."

"She would either say 'I need your help' or 'Could I get your help on this?' She herself would also call your entire family and your local government officials like your mayor or governor to pressure you," Custodio said.

Escudero challenged the President to deny making these calls and set the record straight.

"This is a point-blank question: Is she actively intervening in the impeachment complaint by calling up members of Congress? That would be a good question for her so that we would know if

OPPOSITION / A8

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Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/08/23/05

CONTROVERSIAL SAN MATEO RAID

PNP to return opposition papers

By Luige A. del Puerto

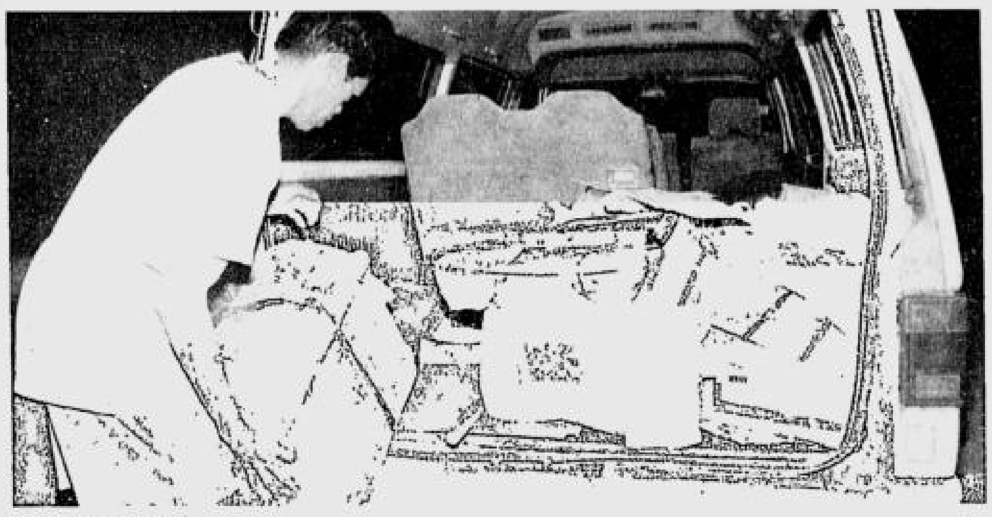
THE POLICE have decided to turn over the election returns seized from an opposition safehouse in San Mateo, Rizal, last week to the camp of former Senator Loren Legarda – if it wants them.

"The chief PNP (Director General Arturo Lomibao) has written Ms Legarda, Rep. Francis Escudero, Segundo Tabayoyong and Carmela Cabuhat. It (letter) says we have concluded our inventory and whoever wants them (ERs), as long as he or she has proof of ownership, can have them," said Senior Supt. Asher Dolina, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-National Capital Region.

Tabayoyong is Legarda's primary witness in the election protest she filed against Vice President Noli de Castro with the Presidential Electoral Tribunal. Cabuhat owns the house that was raided.

"We cannot just give it to anyone who shows up here, so we would need proof of ownership," Dolina said.

He said the proof could be in the form of a letter from the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, the dominant minority party in the 2004 presidential elections, stating that Ms Legarda, Tabayoyong or his laywer, Demaree Raval, was the rightful custodian of the documents.



FIDEL PEREN/BANDERA

THE rented house of Segundo Tabayoyong in San Mateo, Rizal, where 41 boxes of election returns (ER) were seized by military and police operatives in a raid on Aug. 17. At right, some of the papers taken from the opposition safe house are loaded into a van. LYN RILLON

Last Tuesday, a combined team from the CIDG-NCR and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) searched Tabayoyong's safehouse and seized 41 bundles of ERs, other election-related documents, a handgun and ammunition.

In a letter to Dolina, Escudero chided the police for not immediately conducting an inventory of the documents.

"I believe an appropriate inventory should have been done immediately after the seizure of the documents and not one week later," Escudero said.

The police maintained the inventory was started a day after the search. The CIDG-NCR had invited Escudero to attend the inventory-taking yesterday but the congressman snubbed the invitation.

In his letter to the police, Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the House committee on justice, advised the CIDG to "ensure the safety and integrity of said documents and materials for submission to the committee when so required."

The committee, currently hearing the impeachment complaint against the President, said the documents could be used as evidence in possible impeachment hearings.

The police had been heavily criticized for conducting the search – the opposition called it a raid – without a warrant, relying only on the invitation of the homeowner who, in her affidavit, admitted to having allowed Tabayoyong to stay in the maid's room.

Because they were invited by no less than the landlady, who said she had become wary of Tabayoyong's activities, the police maintained that they did not need a search warrant.

Over the weekend, Tabayoyong's lawyer, Raval, doubted the police would turn over all the exact same documents they had seized from the house.

"The police mentioned that some of the ERs were from Cebu, but I'm sure that we had already moved out our ERs from Cebu to somewhere safe," he said.

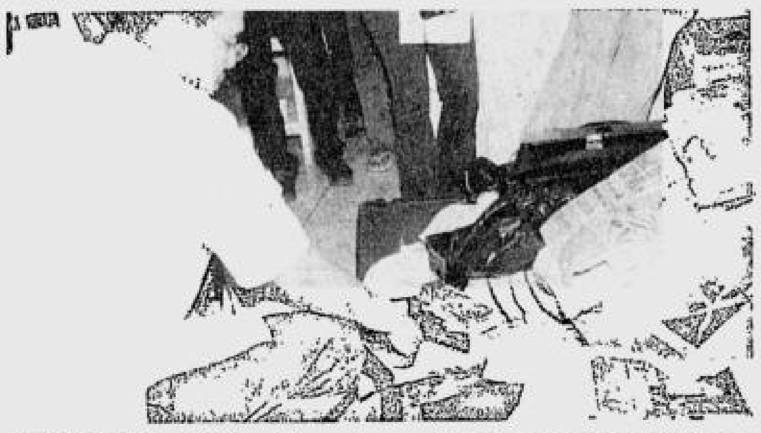
"So we don't know what they're going to return to us. But they can keep the gun," he said.

But Dolina maintained the documents had not been altered in any way.

"We ensure their integrity. We took a video during the raid. We took a video during the inventory," he said.

On Saturday, the camp of Legarda had demanded the immediate return of the ERs "without question" and threatened to sue the authorities for violating the domicile of its witness.

Of particular concern to Legarda's camp were the papers containing the analysis of handwriting expert Tabayoyong of the ERs he had been studying.



CIDG Chief Supt. Wilben Mayor inspects the documents, including a *paltik* revolver, taken during the raid. FIDEL PEREN/BANDERA

"(Tabayoyong) had left them in the house, and we believe they were seized, too," Raval said in a phone interview.

"We have a copy but they should return it to us nevertheless," he said.

Earlier, election officer Pancho Rivera of San Mateo, Rizal, had told the INQUIRER that the ERs belonged to the minority party and his office was not interested in getting them.

Also on Saturday, a ranking military official familiar with the raid suggested the Isafp may have been "misled."

But the intelligence agency had acted in good faith, the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

"An asset told them there were unknown persons in the house. Isafp thought it was terrorism-related. It turned out that it was not, but they had to check the house," said the mid-ranking officer.

The police said they would push through with their investigation of who owned the gun and ammunition confiscated from the house.

Gov't urged to use RUT to fix road ruts

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Ralph Recto is proposing that the government tap its Road Users' Tax (RUT) collection to repair potholes in major thoroughfares in Metro Manila in preparation for the upcoming Southeast Asian Games.

For starters, the Department of Public Works and Highways could patch up road ruts caused by heavy downpours and source its funds for asphalt from the RUT collection, which is projected to reach P7.2 billion this year, he said. ***(See related story on Page A1)***

If it adds up this amount with the unspent RUT collections in previous years, the government could come up with some P10 billion for road repair and maintenance, according to Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means.

"After the rains, our roads clearly need a facial [lift]. And there's money for this purpose – the Road Users' Tax which owners pay every time they register their vehicles [at the Land Transportation Office]," he said.

The RUT, officially known as the Motor Vehicle Users' Charge, is part of the yearly registration fee of a motor vehicle, and goes up as engine displacement increases. The law prescribes that a bulk of this tax be used for road repair and maintenance.

Well-paved roads were the best proof that that the government was using the road users' tax reasonably, according to Recto.

"The proof that RUT serves its purpose should be felt by the body. If you travel on smooth roads and your body is not jarred by potholes as large as lunar craters, then that shows RUT at work," he said.

Besides, the senator stressed that undertaking road repairs in the metropolis now was imperative because of the much-awaited 23rd SEA Games, which Manila is hosting from Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

This, he said, would result in smooth travel and ensure the safety of motorists, local or foreign.

"As a host, we will be adjudged for the quality of our facilities, first and, our roads, next. Due to our fiscal problems, we may no longer pass the 'facilities test' with flying colors because we can't afford new stadiums," he said.

"But we can be a medal winner in good roads if we will allow RUT do its work."

But with or without the SEA Games, Recto pressed the local governments to demand their rebates from the RUT to spruce up their cities in preparation of the 11-nation meet.

"We will be hitting two birds with one stone if we will use RUT to prep us up in time for the games when the focus of the half a billion is on us," he said.

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RP diplomats asked to verify Garci sighting report in New Jersey

PHILIPPINE diplomats in New York have been asked to verify reports that a senior election official who allegedly conspired with President Macapagal-Arroyo to cheat in last year's presidential poll is in the United States, the foreign office said Monday.

Members of the political opposition have urged the Philippines' justice department to seek assistance from US authorities in tracking down Virgilio Garcillano, who they believe is hiding in New Jersey.

"We instructed the Philippine Consulate General in New York to verify the information," forwarded by the opposition that Garcillano was in New Jersey, said foreign office spokesperson Gilberto Asuque.

The New York office has jurisdiction over Filipinos in New Jersey.

Garcillano has been on the run since June after the opposition made public wiretapped conversations in which a person sounding like him can be heard plotting to manipulate votes with a woman who sounded like Ms Arroyo.

Ms Arroyo has rejected widespread demands that she step down, but has apologized for what she called a lapse in judgment after admitting she called an unnamed poll official, but only to protect her lead ahead of the final tally.

She is now fighting an impeachment bid in Congress.

Philippine immigration authorities last week admitted that Garcillano, who has not been charged of any crime, has left the country for a third country via Singapore.

The opposition has asked the foreign office to cancel Garcillano's passport so he can be declared an illegal alien and be brought home to testify in the Congressional probe. *AFP*

How do you bag Garci? Gonzalez shows the way

By Armand N. Nocum and Volt Contreras

GARCILLANO

IF FORMER Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is in New Jersey in the United States, how can he be returned to the Philippines? A suggestion was offered yesterday from an unlikely source.

Strangely helpful, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the Office of the Ombudsman could charge Garcillano with graft, thus providing a legal ground with which the government could have him extradited through the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT).

Gonzalez made the suggestion after noting that the government's chances of bringing Garcillano back home looked dim because the warrant issued for his arrest only stemmed from his having been cited for contempt in Congress.

Garcillano is being sought by Congress and foes of President Macapagal-Arroyo, at the very least to answer allegations that the President, through bugged phone calls, sought his help in altering the results of last year's elections.

Gonzalez, known for zealously defending the President against criticism, pointed out that no criminal case had yet been filed against Garcillano.

"If he is really there (in the US), then the MLAT can be invoked, although he is not criminally charged here. That's the problem ... he is not a fugitive. He is just subject of a contempt citation by Congress," he said.

Gonzalez was reacting to a statement of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, who disclosed the other day that Garcillano was in New Jersey and that the government could use the MLAT to get him back in the country.

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday also took note of Pimentel's tip. It ordered the Philippine consulate in New York to verify the senator's claim that Garcillano was already staying at his daughter's house in New Jersey.

Gonzalez said the Ombudsman could check reports that Garcillano had not filed his statement of assets and liabilities.

"That must be checked with the Ombudsman because under (the anti-graft law), a constitutional official like Mr. Garcillano should file his SAL with the Ombudsman. So the best thing to do is to find out whether he really filed, and he should be charged. If he is not charged, there is no basis to subject him to the penal provisions of (the anti-graft law)," he said.

Gonzalez said the Bureau of Internal Revenue should also get into the picture and look into Garcillano's income tax returns to see if there was basis for charging him with tax evasion.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday took a more circumspect view of the matter. Asked by reporters yesterday whether Garcillano's confirmed exit to Singapore in mid-July could not be taken as a clear sign of guilt, Abalos maintained the conclusion could only be held if the person had already been charged in court.

"In the first place, is there already a case filed against him? Flight can be considered guilt if there is," he said. "But if there is none yet, for all you know he might just be afraid of the media."

Abalos said the Comelec could investigate Garcillano only for election-related cases.

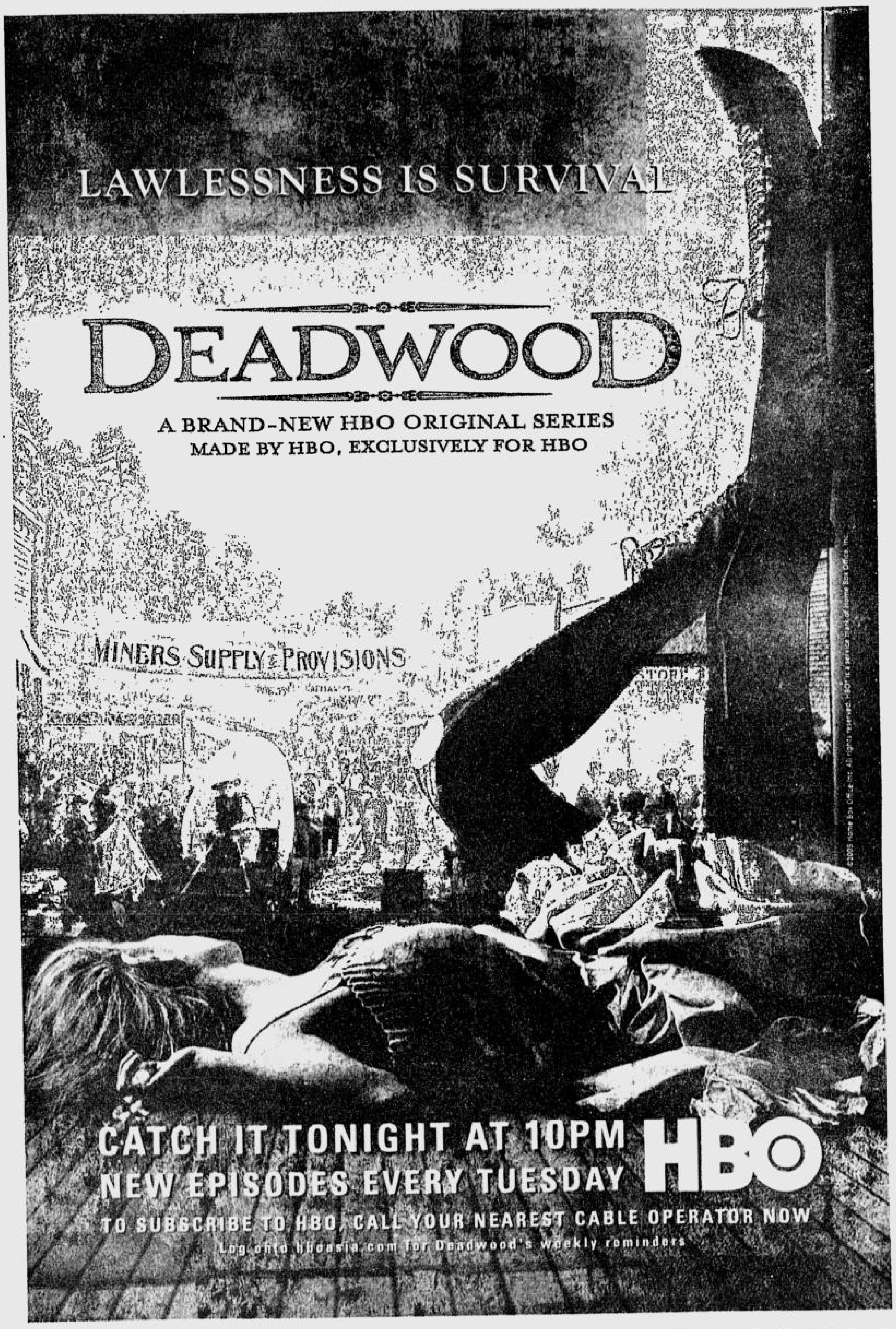
He disclosed that the agency had written the missing commissioner a month ago asking him to explain his side regarding the "Hello, Garci" wiretaps. The letters were eventually returned unread, he added.

Abalos said he was elated to see foreigners appreciating the Comelec's efforts during the Aug. 8 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"It really makes me wonder why (such an appreciation) had to come from them while all we got here (from Filipinos) are criticism," he told reporters in Filipino.

He appealed to President Arroyo's detractors and "political opportunists" asking for either her resignation or impeachment to "spare the Comelec as an institution, otherwise the people will no longer have any trust in our elections."

He said the ARMM elections turned out to be generally peaceful and its winners proclaimed in just three days because its citizens and the local poll watchdog groups felt "insulted" by earlier media reports depicting the region as a hotbed of election fraud.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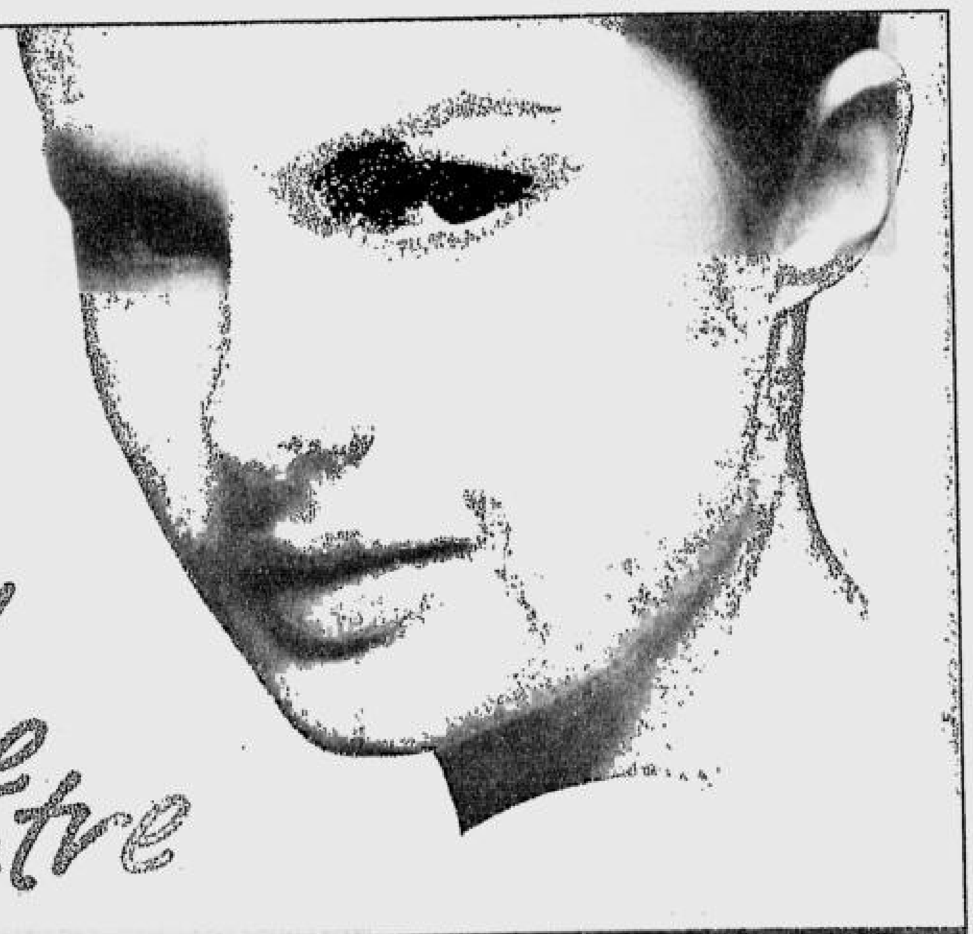

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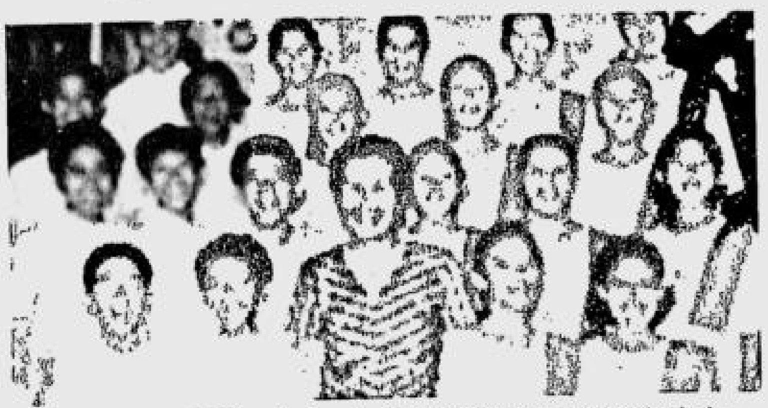
‘TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS’ 2005

Musician, physicist, priest honored as top educators

REUTER: Medium is mass media



TALDO (center): Unleashed potential of unknown children’s choir from Loboc, Bohol, and made it world class.

SALOMA: Winner of Galileo Galilei Award in 2004 for outstanding work in optics

A MUSICIAN, a scientist and a priest are this year’s honorees for the “A Tribute to Teachers,” which continues the tradition of giving recognition to exemplary Filipino educators who have touched the lives of their students and have given deeper meaning to their vocation.

Alma Fernando-Taldo, Dr. Caesar Saloma, and Fr. James Reuter, SJ, are given this year’s recognition for going beyond their duties to improve the lives of their students and uplift their profession, according to organizers from Bato Balani Foundation.

Devoid of any musical talent, Taldo saw the potential in an unknown children’s choir from a small town in Bohol, and single-handedly honed their talents. Today, the 30-member Loboc Children’s Choir has won accolades and recognition from various international chorale competitions. The awards include first prize in the 2003 Europe and its Songs 6th International Folksong Choir Festival (Children’s Choir Category), and the Europe and its Songs 2003 Cup for having achieved the overall highest mark in all categories.

Saloma, a physicist and executive director of the UP National Institute of Physics, earned the respect of the academic community for his patriotism and zeal for guiding the NIP towards attaining outstanding work in physics. He was the recipient of the 2004 Galileo Galilei Award from the International Commission for Optics in recognition of his outstanding contribution in optics.

“Teachers end up molding souls,” were the words of Father Reuter, who has found a unique way of serving the Church—by teaching. He is the national director of the National Office of Mass Media, an office under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. Today, Father Reuter is not only teaching in the classroom but is also putting into better use the influence of mass media—television, radio and newspapers—to affect the lives of more people.

The 2005 “A Tribute to Teachers” is part of the Bato Balani Foundation’s advocacy to improve the quality of Philippine education by providing role models for teachers and helping them find meaning in their vocation. For the first time, the foundation is also bringing this year’s Tribute outside Metro Manila. It will be held in Cebu City on Sept. 10.

“A Tribute to Teachers” is sponsored by leading academic publisher Diwa Learning Systems Inc., Cebu Pacific, and Microdata. For more information, call Sheng Segura at 893-8501 or e-mail tribute@diwamail.com. Also visit www.diwa.ph.

₱63M set aside for e-Library program—CHEd

By Alcuin Papa

THE E-LIBRARY program is set to receive an additional P63 million to fund the second phase, the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) said the other day.

The program is a collaboration of the CHEd, University of the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology, the National Library and the Department of Agriculture.

It provides users an online catalog of the libraries of the participants as well as other academic institutions in the country. The program also makes available to users access to an electronic database on various fields of interests.

The program had an initial budget of P166.7 million and was launched last April. The e-Lib can be accessed through www.elib.gov.ph. The National Library is currently overseeing the implementation of the e-Library project.

Already, the project has 800,000 bibliographic records consisting of 25 million pages of local and international materials. It also has in its database 29,000 full-text copies of foreign journals and 15,000 theses and dissertations all in digital format.

According to a recent status report recently presented to the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, which funds the e-Library project, bandwidth issues and the sustainability of the project are now being addressed.

Over the past few months, the online portal has been suffering from lags due to the sheer traffic since its launch in April.

The CHEd also said that project proponents are looking at different mechanisms to sustain the e-Library project as revenues earned from the sale of digital content go straight to the National Treasury.

Last week, the project proponents agreed to negotiate with the Department of Budget and Management on how they can retain some of the revenues to help sustain the project.

The CHEd said that additional funding is needed to further improve the portal system and to ensure the maintenance of the e-Library data center until it becomes self-sustaining. Funding is also required for the payment of the online databases subscriptions and the additional digitization of the National Library’s collection.

The additional funding would also be needed for the acquisition of “critical hardware” for access points spread throughout the country.

The e-Library project is projected to make available to users about 22 million pages of images and text or about five to eight terabytes of data. Currently, only about 100 gigabytes of data has been made accessible via its portal.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 23, 2005
21st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Thes 2:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 23:23-26

Jesus said, “Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You do not forget the mint, anise and cumin seeds when you pay the tenth of everything, but then you forget what is most fundamental in the Law: justice, mercy and faith. These you must practice, without neglecting the others. Blind guides! You strain out a mosquito, but swallow a camel.

“Woe to you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You fill the plate and the cup with theft and violence, and then pronounce a blessing over them. Blind Pharisee! Purify the inside first, then the outside too will be purified.”

Commentary

Jesus attacks those who have sought so insistently to contradict him and interrupt him as he preaches the good news to the poor, and seeks to heal the sick and those condemned by the lawyers and leaders of the Jewish community. And he is devastating in his condemnation of them. They forget (conveniently) the foundations of law—that binds and holds the community together, especially giving the poor and the weakest shelter, dignity and life—justice, mercy and faith. Instead of practicing these core-heart issues, they are interested in taxes, tithes, their own status, use and misuse of power. There is no mercy or justice in them. They are heartless, blind, self-absorbed and swallowing camels, keeping the mosquitoes out to torment others. We are horrified when we hear Jesus like this—angry. But does he have equally good reason to be angry at us—the good people of the parish?

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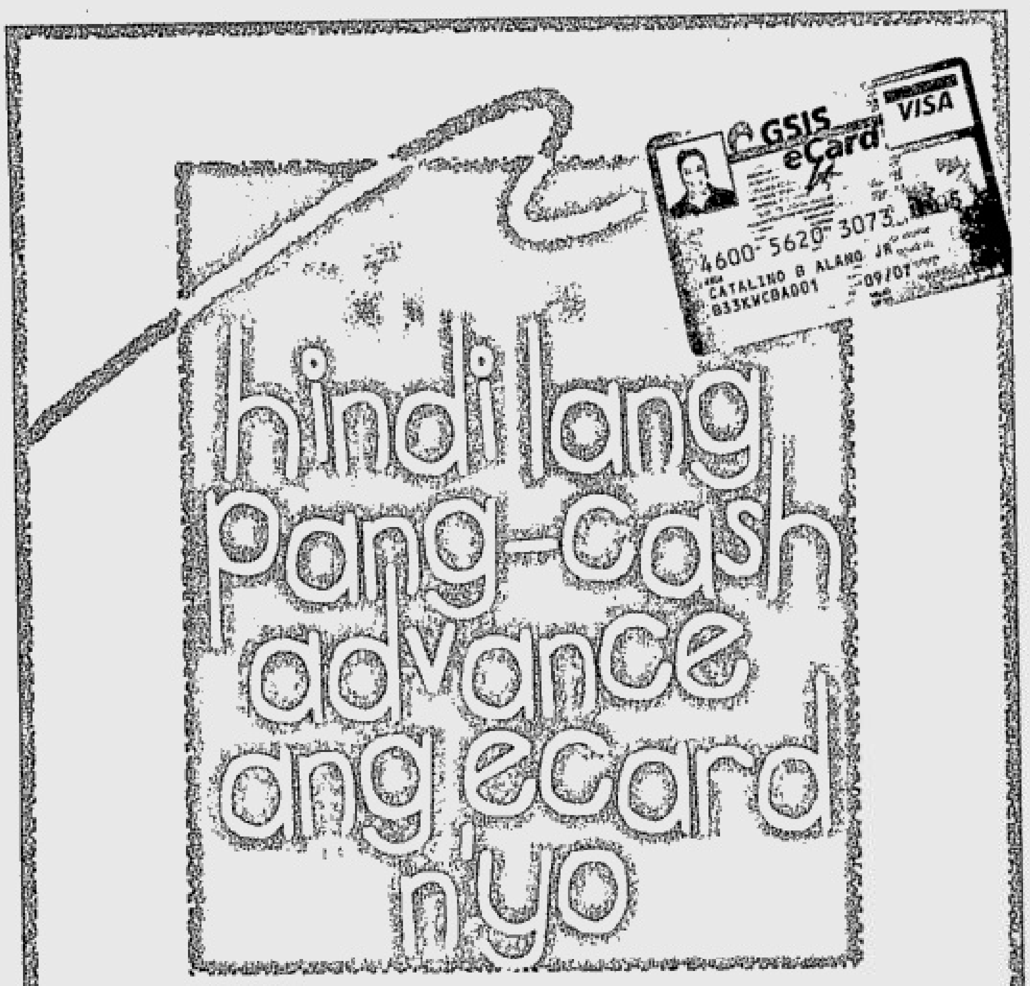
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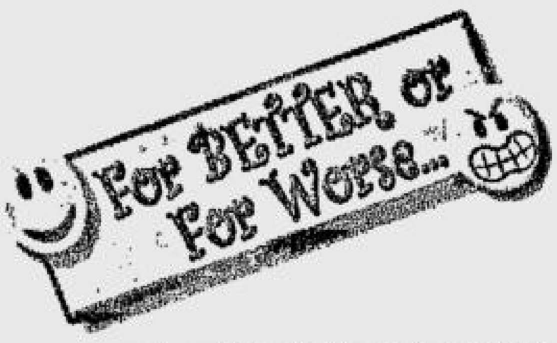
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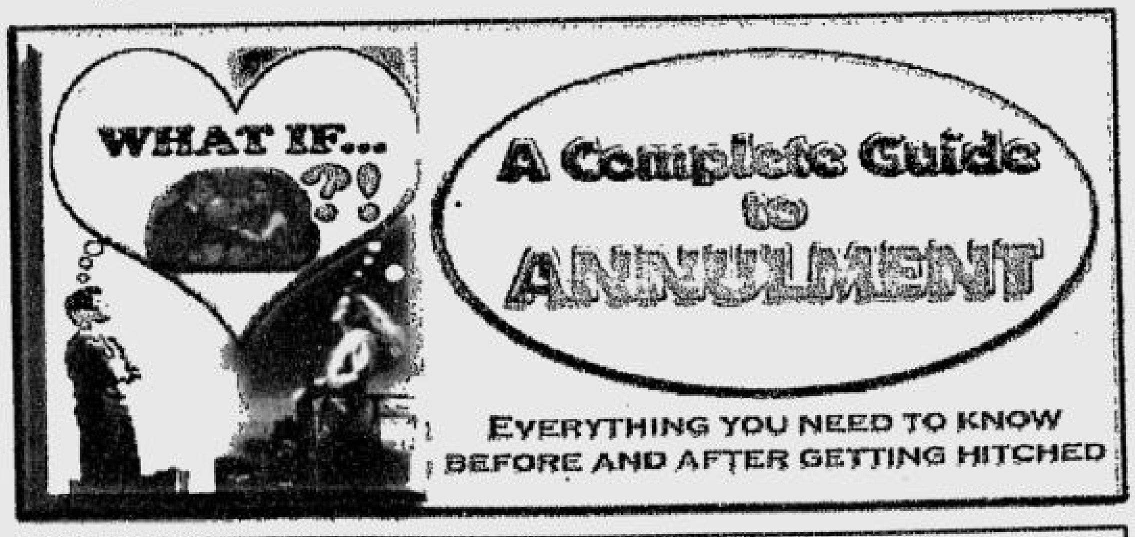
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BUSINESSWORLD AIM CONFERENCE CENTER INQUIRER

BI exec blames 'smear campaign' for Garci reports

By Leila B. Salaverria

IMMIGRATION Associate Commissioner Teodoro Delarmente yesterday attributed his being linked to the flight of former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to a smear campaign against himself.

In a statement, Delarmente also challenged those who claimed he had helped prepare Garcillano's travel papers to come up with evidence to back their accusations, adding that he would resign if it were proven that he was involved.

"It is possible there is a smear campaign against me, although I could not categorically say who are involved. Maybe they come from the BI [Bureau of Immigration] or from outside. They may be people whose activities I may have disrupted in the course of my work," Delarmente said in a phone interview.

Delarmente was identified by an INQUIRER source as the one who assisted Garcillano in flying out of the country on July 14.

Garcillano had made himself scarce since wiretapped phone conversations purportedly between himself and President Macapagal-Arroyo were made public. The opposition claimed the conversations proved election fraud.

The wiretapped conversations sparked massive calls for the President's resignation or impeachment.

Delarmente also threatened to file libel charges against the INQUIRER for linking him to Garcillano's flight.

"I am thinking about filing a libel suit. It was unfair to link me to Garcillano's departure without proof. The story was so long and I was only mentioned in a few paragraphs, and I was made the headline," he said.

He also took exception to a follow-up story that linked him to the escape of a Vietnamese-American terror suspect.

"It had no connection to Garcillano," he said.

Delarmente told the INQUIRER his only participation in the case of Nguyen Vinh Tan or Vo Van Doc was to sign the latter's summary deportation order, which he said was also signed by the other BI commissioners.

"As to the implémentation of the order, I had nothing to do with that. I was not involved in escorting him to the airport. It's not likely I would accompany him to the airport," he said.

Vo Van Doc, who was supposed to board a Cathay Pacific flight to the United States after he was deported, instead got on an Emirates flight bound for Tagana in Africa with the help of unidentified airport personnel, according to a report obtained by the INQUIRER. He subsequently disappeared.

Delarmente also urged his detractors to stop making insinuations based on his having been a classmate of Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. at the Philippine Military Academy.

He said he last spoke to Ebdane, who had been accused of hiding Garcillano, when Ebdane assumed his post at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Speculations about Garcillano's whereabouts had been rife until the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed he had arrived in Singapore on July 14 and left for an unknown destination the following day.

A joint committee from the Department of Justice and the BI has begun investigating Garcillano's flight, which the BI has no record of and which may have violated immigration and aviation laws.

BI executive director Roy Almoro, committee vice chair, said the group met for the first time yesterday to discuss the guidelines and procedures it would follow in its probe.

Palace: No more 'jueteng' by Sept. 15

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has renewed her order to authorities to put a "total stop" to "jueteng" throughout the country by Sept. 15, her spokesperson said yesterday.

The President renewed her order following the "slight resurgence" in jueteng operations in some parts of the country, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Palawan mayor and anti-jueteng czar Edward Hagedorn, who was in Malacañang yesterday, admitted to a "10 to 15 percent" resurgence in jueteng operations some three months after the President initially ordered the authorities to put a stop to the illegal numbers game.

Hagedorn said the authorities were able to shut down 90 percent of jueteng operations throughout the country but the game began to resurface "two or three weeks ago."

He mentioned some parts of Laguna and Central Luzon as areas where jueteng operations had resumed.

"There are areas where jueteng is on and off," Hagedorn said.

Asked if jueteng had made a comeback in President Arroyo's home province, Hagedorn said he had gone around Pampanga and found that jueteng operations had indeed been stopped.

"*Nagpataya pa nga ako pero wala talagang* operations *ang* jueteng (I tried to place a bet but there were really no jueteng operations)," he said.

Visits to Regions 1 to 5 showed their municipalities were also jueteng-free, he said.

Hagedorn said he had submitted an initial report on alleged "jueteng lords" to the President.

Being a member of the group that advises the President in her anti-jueteng campaign, Hagedorn said he had also submitted recommendations for eradicating jueteng completely in the country.

These include "friendly persuasion" by talking to local officials and others involved in jueteng to stop their activities.

And if they still refuse to follow the order, Hagedorn said the authorities should use the "full force of the law" against them like suspending them as well as the police and military officials who are remiss in doing their jobs.

He said the war on jueteng could not be won without the support of local officials and that was why he had begun to meet with them to seek their support in the government's campaign.

He said that in order to stop jueteng, the government should also provide alternative livelihoods for those dependent on it for jobs.

He estimated that one million people relied on jueteng for their livelihood.

Social Welfare Secretary Lualhati Pablo said her department had come up with programs to help families displaced by the end of jueteng operations.

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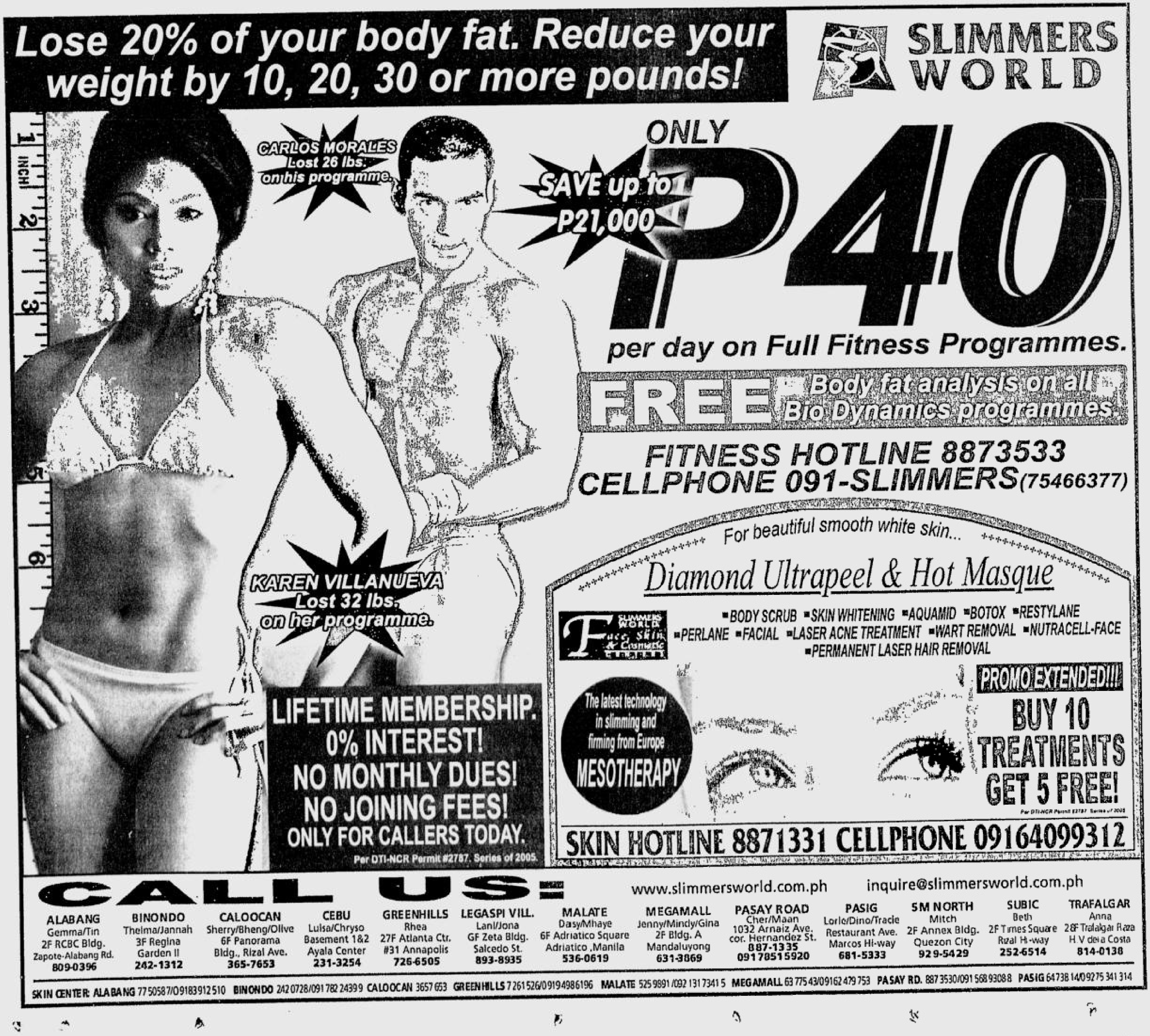

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Estrada says GMA will leave in stroller

From page A1

claimed he was illegally ousted, and last year tapped his best friend and fellow actor Fernando Poe to stand in the presidential election, which was won by Ms Arroyo.

Estrada's allies have since led an opposition campaign to oust Ms Arroyo from office on charges that she cheated to win the election.

One of worst times

The President was recently accused of committing nearly the same offenses Estrada is now standing trial for, including obstructing the investigation of accusations she rigged her electoral victory and received illegal gambling payoffs to fund her presidential campaign.

"I am glad not to be in her shoes at this time," Estrada was quoted as saying. "This is one of the worst times."

Ms Arroyo has been reported to be keen on making peace with Estrada after he was allowed a furlough from house arrest to attend a prayer rally of El Shaddai, a Catholic lay movement, in Manila on Saturday.

While both Ms Arroyo and Estrada showed up at the rally, they did not meet with each other.

Earlier, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor disclosed that reconciliation talks between the Arroyo and Estrada camps had begun, with Estrada seeking his release from house arrest on recognizance.

Recognizance is the release of an accused without bail to someone of high moral standing in the community.

Estrada confirmed talking to Defensor about his possible release on recognizance, but said this was based on the merits of his plunder case, not reconciliation.

Defensor said he was acting on his own when he called on Estrada on July 24 to discuss reconciliation and the latter's possible release.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said that Estrada had not been offered his freedom in exchange for reconciling with the government.

Ermita said the special court trying Estrada was an independent body that did not take orders from the Chief Executive.

Estrada's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, said the talks should be deferred until the political crisis had been resolved.

"I am amenable to reconciliation if it will be good for the country. But if it is only for the good of an individual fighting for survival or (if it will be just for) a photo-op (photo opportunity); I am not amenable to it," the senator told reporters yesterday.

Defer talks

Maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo called the talks plain politicking, saying these would not prosper because of legal impediments.

Senator Arroyo said Sunday that Estrada's release on bail was not possible because he is charged with plunder, an offense punishable by death.

But administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago held a contrary view.

Bail for Estrada

Santiago yesterday said that Estrada could still be granted bail since he was neither a threat to society nor a flight risk. She said Ms Arroyo could ask government prosecutors, who are under the executive branch, not to oppose Esrada's bail petition.

Even though an accused is charged with a capital offense, he can be granted bail upon the discretion of the judge when he passes a twofold test, Santiago said.

"First, the evidence should show that the accused will not be a threat to society if he is set free. Second, the evidence should show that the accused, if convicted, will be available to serve sentence," she said.

"If we apply this twofold test to President Estrada's case, my view is that release on bail will not render him a danger to society. Further, because of his age, health and status as a former president, I do not believe that he will flee the country," Santiago said.

"I humbly opine that procedural process be followed, and after due hearing, if warranted, President Estrada should be admitted to bail," she added.

Joker's turnaround

Santiago expressed surprise at Senator Arroyo's position, recalling that he had represented anti-Marcos protesters to whom she granted bail even if they had been charged with unlawful assembly, a capital offense during martial law.

She said that when she was a judge in Quezon City, she handled the case involving University of the Philippines and Ateneo students, and show business personalities led by Lino Brocka and Behn Cervantes who participated in a protest rally against oil price increases.

Santiago said that since unlawful assembly was then a capital offense, bail was not a matter of right but of discretion on the part of the judge.

She said she conducted bail hearings, which were prolonged because the prosecution presented many witnesses. "Nonetheless, I ruled that evidence of guilt was not strong and released all accused on bail," she said.

"Among the defense lawyers was Joker Arroyo. He is reported to be claiming that bail can no longer be granted in a capital offense case—which seems to be a contradiction of the position he took before me, when I was an RTC (Regional Trial Court) judge," Santiago said.

Estrada can apply for bail as this is allowed under Supreme Court Administrative Circular No. 12-94 (1994) and in its 1995 ruling on Santos v. Ofilada, she said.

Recognizance for paupers

She expressed doubts that Estrada could apply for recognizance, or release to the custody of a person of high moral standing in the community. Recognizance is for those who have no money to post bail, according to the senator.

Under the Constitution, all persons charged with a crime are entitled to bail as a matter of right.

The exception is when the accused is charged with an offense punishable by death or life imprisonment when the evidence of guilt is strong, Santiago said. In this case, she said, bail becomes a matter of discretion on the part of the judge.

Santiago said the reconciliation talks between Ms Arroyo and her ousted predecessor should be pursued since these had legal basis.

"The talks are not pretense, as alleged by others," said Santiago, an Estrada ally who ran under Ms Arroyo's coalition in 2004. *With reports from AFP and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada greets the crowd during the El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde's birthday on Sunday.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Prelate reminds GMA to look for root of conflict

By Christian V. Esguerra

RECONCILIATION is not a show.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales yesterday gave this reminder to President Macapagal-Arroyo and her predecessor Joseph Estrada whose camps are negotiating to end their political conflict.

If they really intend to bury the hatchet, the prelate said they should first address the root cause of their division.

"Is it greed? Is it corruption? Is it immorality? Or stealing?" he asked in an interview with reporters during the 50th homecoming at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary.

Reconciliation, for instance, would be far-fetched for someone who has "wives and sired children left and right" unless he reformed himself first, according to the archbishop. He said he was not referring to a particular person.

"Reconciliation is not something visible," he said. "It's not something that you observe. If you want to reconcile, you have to address the cause of the separation and division."

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez doubted an Arroyo-Estrada reconciliation could pull the country out of the raging political turmoil triggered by the President's alleged cheating in the 2004 elections with the help of money from gambling operators.

"It's an option, but I don't know if it will be the answer to our crisis today," he told reporters. "If he, El Shaddai, thinks that it is the way to solve the crisis, then it is worth trying."

Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic lay movement El Shaddai, is brokering talks between the camps of Ms Arroyo and Estrada. Among the purported talking points are amending the Constitution and freeing Estrada, who is detained at his Tanay rest house on plunder charges.

Rights mission joins call for GMA ouster

From page A1

the impeachment prosecution team. The impeachment complaint against the President also accuses her of abetting numerous human rights violations perpetrated by the military.

"The voluminous evidence submitted to the IPC would be valuable in the impeachment complaint. No self-respecting member of Congress can turn a blind eye to such well-documented violations and Ms Arroyo's role in them," Ocampo said.

The human rights advocates also said that they supported moves to impeach the President.

"The human rights situation in the Philippines has reached alarming proportions which deserves international attention," said Canadian Barbara Waldern, one of the IPC jurors.

A signal

"This impeachment proceeding will send a signal to all countries in the world that the head of state could be indicted for acquiescence and abetting massive human rights abuses by state security forces," she said.

Waldern was among the 85 foreign delegates of the International Solidarity Mission (ISM) that visited areas of the country where the human rights situation "was at its worst," on Aug. 14-18.

The "judgment" of the IPC, which concluded its mission, was signed by all local and foreign delegates. It read:

"The Defendants (President Macapagal-Arroyo and ranking officers of the AFP and PNP) are hereby adjudged to have forfeited any right or authority to occupy their current political positions and hereby ordered removed from positions of power and perpetually and absolutely disqualified from holding any public office."

"The foreign delegates will urge our home countries to withdraw support to the Philippine President if she continues to acquiesce from the worsening human rights violation in the Philippines," said Kawal Ulanday, a member of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan from the United States and IPC juror.

"The worst violations, such as summary executions and enforced disappearances were deliberately and systematically done by state armed forces against legitimate political dissent, this is a serious crime against humanity which merits serious penalties in the international tribunals," added Selma Benkhelija, a lawyer from Belgium and IPC juror.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Philippine National Police Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the PNP would investigate any charges of human rights violations.

"We maintain that we do not tolerate human rights violations and we have certain police operational procedures or rules of engagement to follow in certain situation(s)," Bataoil said. "Any deviation from the same, we will make them answer for it including the immediate supervisor on the ground if evidence warrants."

The judges

The IPC held Ms Arroyo responsible for the 4,207 cases of human rights violations from January 2001 to June 2005, which included 400 victims of summary executions and 110 victims of forced disappearances.

Those who testified in the tribunal included witnesses to the Hacienda Luisita massacre in Tarlac on Nov. 16 last year, abductions and extrajudicial killings committed in Mindoro and Eastern Visayas, and cases of torture, massacres and other cases in Surigao and Sulu.

On the Hacienda Luisita incident, Bataoil urged the mission to also look into the "human rights violations [committed by] the picketers who injured a lot of our policemen in the area during our peacekeeping operation at that time."

The court's judges included American law professor Lennox Hinds of Rutgers University, who was also a lawyer for Nelson Mandela, independent South Africa's first president; Nobel Peace Prize nominee Irene Fernandez of Malaysia, and lawyer Hakan Karakus of Turkey, president of the International Association of People's Lawyers.

Besides Chomsky, the endorsers of the IPC were Ramsey Clark, former US attorney general and founding chair of the International Action Center, and Jitendra Sharma, former justice of the Supreme Court of India.

Police rights

Finding alleged evidence of extrajudicial killings, the international mission concluded that the Arroyo administration violated the Bill of Rights of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the GRP-NDF (National Democratic Front) Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and the International Humanitarian Law, among others.

Ocampo said the unresolved political killings under the Arroyo administration were an "enormous hindrance" to national reconciliation.

"A president that allows and encourages the killing of her own people for political ends, especially of her critics and human rights advocates, doing a grave injustice, culpably violates the Constitution and loses the moral right to govern and to unite the nation," said Ocampo, who is himself a former political detainee during the Marcos dictatorship.

He said that the reported relief of Brig. Gen. Jovito Palparan as head of the Army's 8th Infantry Division in Eastern Visayas indicated the President's "grudging admission of the politically motivated murders, abductions, torture, forced disappearances and other human rights violations" reported to human rights group Karapatan and the IPC and ISM.

Palparan's removal from Eastern Visayas and his expulsion from the military have long been demanded by Eastern Samar Rep. Catalino Figueroa and various people's organizations.

"In spite of the rising incidence of political killings in Mindoro Oriental when Palparan was provincial military chief, Arroyo promoted him from colonel to brigadier general. True, he was removed from Mindoro but he pursued the same bloodthirsty campaign against anti-Arroyo activists," Ocampo said.

Guilty

The international mission was particularly appalled by the military general accused of numerous human rights violations in the course of his intensive anti-insurgency campaign.

"Due to the particular heinousness of his offenses, we particularly make a specific finding of guilt against (Maj.) Gen. Jovito Palparan," the group said.

The general, who had vowed to wipe out the insurgents, denied the allegations.

The international mission said evidence against the Arroyo administration demonstrated "beyond reasonable doubt that these human rights abuses are widespread, systematic and were done with impunity."

Support for GMA ouster

It also supported calls for Ms Arroyo's ouster and asked the international community to do the same.

"The defendants are sentenced to pay compensation and indemnification for the victims' rehabilitation, restitute their material and moral damages, and issue a sincere public apology to the Filipino people, and that all prisoners incarcerated because of political repression be released," it told the Philippine government.

The group further asked the Filipino people to file a complaint with the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Proimpeach solons want pork, too

From page A1

were released on July 4, this has something to do with the 'Hello Garci' controversy and an effort to kill the impeachment complaint," Suplico said.

Citing documents from the Department of Public Works and Highways, the two lawmakers showed that millions of pesos were released on July 4 to administration allies in Congress—with amounts equivalent to double this year's pork barrel allocations—while proimpeachment lawmakers got nothing.

"We are concerned about the transparency of these releases, especially now that there are many reports that Malacañang is offering everything under the sun to stop the impeachment process," Casiño said.

Biggest shares

Suplico distributed to reporters a copy of Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) A-05-02701, which he said he got from the DPWH. The document showed that P2.2 billion was released last month to lawmakers.

Suplico said the top three lawmakers who got the highest allocations from this tranche were Leyte Rep. Remedios "Matin" Petilla (Lakas-CMD), P90 million; Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda (Kampi), P65 million, and Pampanga Rep. Jesus Reynaldo Aquino (Lakas-CMD), P50 million.

"This is not something which should be taken lightly because some of the releases, like the P90 million, were double the PDAF allocation this year," Casiño said.

In a joint statement sent to the INQUIRER, Miranda and Aquino condemned Suplico for singling out administration solons as recipients of the project, when opposition lawmakers were also beneficiaries of the P2.2-billion Saro.

"It is absolutely wrong for Representative Suplico to claim the Saro release was a political accommodation because even his colleagues from the minority partook of the road fund. There is a formula for apportioning these funds based on the condition of national highways in various localities. It just so happens that the roads in Isabela are in dire need of rehabilitation," Miranda said.

The Isabela lawmaker added that Suplico erred in claiming that Miranda's Saro amounted to P65 million when the correct figure was P68 million.

Suspended

Amid the quibbling, the President yesterday ordered the suspension of the funds' release.

Casiño said the PDAF (Priority Development Assistance Fund) allotment, or pork barrel as it is derisively called, for each congressman this year amounted to P40 million.

Suplico said that while administration lawmakers received millions of pesos, he and proimpeachment Representatives Ronaldo Zamora (San Juan) and Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) did not get anything.

Suplico said he could not yet "judge" the actions of the three administration lawmakers, who received the largest allocations, in the impeachment proceedings. But he noted that each lawmaker was entitled to one vote when the impeachment complaint is finally debated in the plenary.

Road Board

While the Saro was approved by then Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Suplico said that it was the Road Board that decided on the allocations. Boncodin has resigned from the Cabinet and has called for the President's resignation.

Suplico noted that the Road Board's executive director was Rodolfo Puno, a brother of Antipolo Rep. Ronaldo V. Puno, who is the chair of Ms Arroyo's political party Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

130 English textbooks found full of grammatical errors

By Alcuin Papa

ENGLISH Language textbooks with grammatical errors and social science textbooks with outdated and inaccurate entries?

This is what the Department of Education (DepEd) discovered in 130 textbooks in English and social science submitted by local publishers for possible use in public elementary and high schools around the country.

In a meeting between DepEd officials and textbook publishers, Education Undersecretary for Finance and Administration Juan Miguel Luz said none of the books submitted by the publishers passed the department's evaluation. In fact, most books required either major or minor revisions.

In an effort to improve the quality of textbooks in public schools, the DepEd is evaluating textbooks even before they are submitted for bidding. The department is also bent on revising the textbooks every five years.

Luz gave publishers a tongue-lashing, telling them to improve the textbooks or the DepEd would not buy them.

"If you want to sell to public schools, comply with our requirements and competencies. Quality begets better quality and it's our right to buy quality," Luz said.

He added that publishers must invest in research and good writing.

Luz explained that the evaluation of the DepEd was now conducted on four levels, compared to the old system whereby the department bought books solely on the basis of the lowest bid.

"There is a need to fix the content. If we leave the quality to the publishers, we might as well buy on price. If you want to do it by the old system, I suggest you find another buyer," Luz snapped.

The four levels for evaluation now in use by the DepEd are: Coverage of learning competencies (level 1); accuracy of content (level 2); presentation, vocabulary, language and the use of visuals (level 3); and grammar (level 4).

Evaluation for level 1 is done by the DepEd's original pool of evaluators. Level 2 by university professors, level 3 by classroom teachers and level 4 by grammar specialists, according to Luz.

Based on the coverage of learning competencies, the elementary and high school English and social science textbooks, as well as the teacher's manual "failed to sufficiently develop and include the required learning competencies set by the department," the DepEd said.

Gov't 5-year population target in peril

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE ARROYO administration's goal of reducing the country's supposedly high population growth rate in five years appears to be in peril.

The Commission on Population yesterday said the target contained in the government's Medium Term Development Plan would be difficult to achieve considering that more than half of Filipino couples (50.7) were still not into family planning.

Popcom director Tomas Osias cited the findings of the 2004 Family Planning Survey which was released more than a month ago.

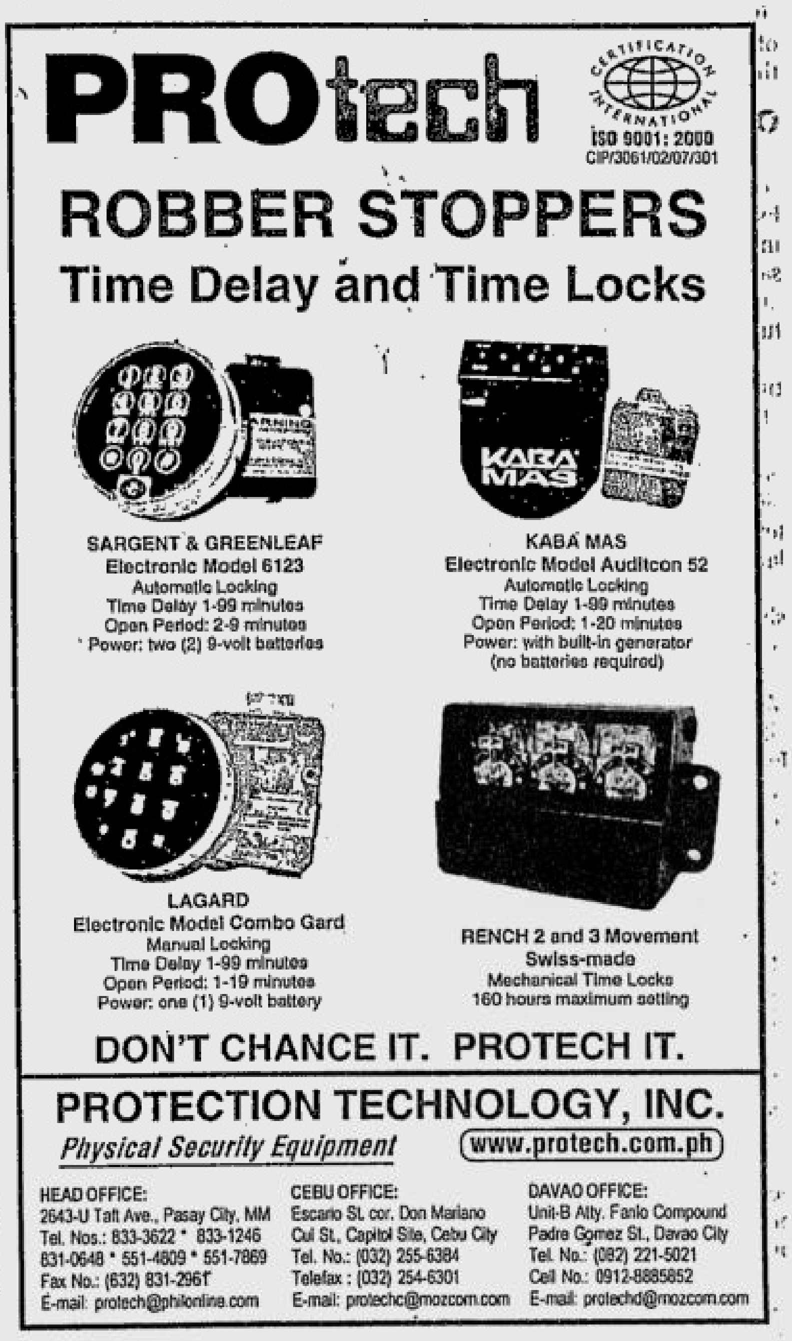
In its development plan, the administration plans to reduce the current population growth rate of 2.36 to 1.9 percent.

The present figure was one of the major arguments by people pushing the responsible parenthood and population management bill in Congress.

According to the Family Planning Survey, only 49.3 percent of Filipino couples were using contraceptives. The figure was just a bit higher than the 48.9-percent rate in the 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey.

"We must consolidate all our efforts quickly and make each couple understand that planning the family is not only for their own good but also for the welfare of the whole country," Osias said in statement.

According to Popcom, the Philippines is the 12th most populated country in the world, giving birth to about 1.8 million children every year.



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P2M worth of illegal drugs seized at Naia; news leak irks customs exec; media barred

By Nikko Dizon

SOME P2 million worth of regulated and prohibited drugs that arrived at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last week were confiscated yesterday by authorities.

Officials of the Bureau of Customs Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC) at the Naia listed the drugs as Valium, Ventolin, Mogadon and Dormicon.

Gen. Nestorio Gualberto (ret.), director of customs enforcement and security, barred the media from covering the inspection of the drugs.

"Media, out! Out!" Gualberto was heard barking at news reporters and photographers at the CMEC.

Gualberto was reportedly irked that news of the seizure had been leaked to the press.

Customs examiner Pol Urrea, who examined the parcels, said Valium, Mogadon and Dormicon were considered dangerous drugs and thus warranted outright seizure by the customs bureau.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Food and Drug Administration has to clear the importation of Ventolin, an asthma drug, Urrea said.

Three boxes containing 13,434 Ventolin nebules were shipped from Singapore and consigned to an Aida Santos of Raffy Enterprises in Pasig City.

Two boxes containing 44,600 Valium pills, 8,000 Mogadon tablets and 440 Dormicon tablets were shipped from Pakistan and consigned to a Juan Roces of Quezon City.

Urrea said the boxes arrived on Thursday night and were opened for inspection on Friday.

Urrea said police who profiled the shipment found the parcels suspicious and summoned him to open and examine them in the presence of members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

Urrea said no one had claimed the parcels since the shipment arrived.

Gualberto later denied he had raised his voice to the airport press.

But he admitted asking the members of the media to leave the room where he was meeting with customs officials who had confiscated the drugs.

"I asked them to leave because we were having a conference. I also didn't want to preempt the announcement of the customs commissioner about the seizure," he said.

Asked if he had raised his voice, he said he had a cough and cold and could not have done so.

"No, I had a cough and a cold. I could not do that. I only said, 'media please step out.' We could not have a conference while they were there," Gualberto said. *With Leila Salaverria*

Asean meet to boost tourism in South

By Jerome Aning

TRAVEL to Mindanao is expected to get a boost following the holding in Davao City of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Tourism Forum next year, tourism authorities said over the weekend.

ATF was one of the Asean events moved to the Philippines after Burma (Myanmar) bowed to international pressure and decided to forego its scheduled chairing of Asean next year.

Davao, considered the tourism gateway to Mindanao, would host both the forum and a regional travel and trade fair, running for nine days from Jan. 13 to Jan. 21, 2006.

According to DOT, around 3,000 guests from Southeast Asia and from all over the world are expected to flock to Davao for the event.

"Because the Philippines is presiding over the affair, there's a lot of anticipation going on, given that the last staging of ATF in the country in 1998 was very successful. We believe we can generate much more attention this time," DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said.

Undersecretary for tourism services and regional offices Oscar Palabyab, head of DOT's ATF Working Group, said his team even prepared timetables for two ATFs: the second one in 2007 when the Philippines takes its proper turn as Asean rotary chair.

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Bro. Mike: GMA open to joint rule with foes

From page A1

would "stabilize the political situation," which had deteriorated following charges that Ms Arroyo rigged the presidential election last year and benefited from "jueteng" payoffs.

He said the political crisis was hurting the economy and the people.

The proposal was being presented as part of Ms Arroyo's reconciliation program with her foes.

Velarde said he discussed his proposal with Ms Arroyo at least three times since the gravest political crisis of her administration erupted with a spate of calls for her to resign on July 8. He said the President had told him to "keep (discussing) it until we come to an agreement."

Velarde said he had also been discussing the proposal with Estrada and other opposition leaders.

Covenant of solidarity

The plan, he said, was for Ms Arroyo, Estrada and other opposition and administration leaders to sign a "covenant of solidarity for the Filipino nation."

The leader of El Shaddai, a Catholic lay movement, said the covenant would have been signed on Sunday during the birthday Mass for him at the Quirino Grandstand where Ms Arroyo and Estrada were scheduled to appear together and shake hands.

The plan was scuttled and Ms Arroyo and Estrada appeared at the rally separately.

Velarde, the politically influential leader of the Catholic charismatic group, said he had proposed a 60-40 sharing of Cabinet posts, with the larger proportion going to the opposition as a gesture of sincerity on the part of the President.

Transition government

He said Ms Arroyo would still head the coalition government that would serve as a transition until general elections shall have been held, preferably in 2007.

"I was proposing that the opposition and administration national parties work for a coalition government which will become some kind of a transition toward Charter change which I hope would take effect in 2007," Velarde said.

Asked what his role would be in the coalition government or in its formation, he said: "Mine is just shuttling back [and forth] between the two camps. I am just their servant."

Velarde said he was not at liberty to identify the other opposition leaders he had spoken to. The leaders were open to the idea, he said.

Impeachment

He said some of the opposition leaders were concerned about the effect of the proposed arrangement on the impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo.

Velarde said he assured the leaders that the impeachment would push through if the lawmakers wanted it to.

"I'm not tying this coalition government to the impeachment case," he said.

A high-ranking official, who Velarde apparently talked to, told the INQUIRER earlier in the day that Velarde's proposal was to hold presidential elections in 2007 to cut Ms Arroyo's term.

"It means he (Velarde) also agrees that the President cannot stay there up to 2010," said the official, who did not want to be named.

The official said the proposal was similar to that espoused by former President Fidel V. Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. Ramos had suggested that the Constitution be changed through a constituent assembly to pave the way for parliamentary elections next year.

Before the INQUIRER talked to Velarde, a person close to him confirmed that it was "part of the amendments" being contemplated by, and which Velarde had discussed with, Ms Arroyo.

Limited amendments

Velarde said the proposal entailed "limited amendments'" to the Constitution possibly through a constituent assembly composed of the members of Congress.

The amendments should consist of easing some restrictive economic provisions, lifting the limits on the term of elective officials and holding general elections in 2007.

Velarde said holding the elections in 2007 could "more or less" cut Ms Arroyo's term, who has until 2010 to stay in office. He said that when he raised this with Ms Arroyo, she said she was "open to it."

"I said we should study what is best for the country. Everybody has to make a sacrifice," he said.

Clean up Comelec

Velarde said holding elections next year would be too early because the electoral process and the Commission on Elections needed to be cleaned up for the elections to be credible.

"Twelve months is too short for that," he said.

Velarde favors a four-year term for national and local officials, including the President.

Three years for local officials is too short to make them effective while six years for a President is too long, according to the El Shaddai leader. When a president becomes unpopular or saddled with charges, the people have no recourse but to go to the streets, he said.

Velarde recalled that Ms Arroyo had given her "commitment" to him about Charter change as early as the 2004 election campaign.

At that time, Ms Arroyo had sought Velarde's endorsement and met with him in his air-conditioned bus in Tarlac.

When they emerged from the meeting, Velarde's spokesperson, now Light Rail Transit Administrator Mel Robles, read a message saying that the President and Velarde had agreed on several commitments, including Charter change.

Velarde said Ms Arroyo agreed with him then that Charter change must be pursued immediately after her assumption to the presidency in 2004. "Otherwise Charter change would be suspect," he said.

Velarde said he had espoused changes to the economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution that have been hindering progress, including the limitation on foreign ownership of land, and limits on the terms of elective officials.

GMA willing to cut short 6-year term—Defensor

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is willing to cut short her six-year term if this will forge a reconciliation with deposed President Joseph Estrada and the opposition.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, the President's point man in her reconciliation efforts with Estrada, told the INQUIRER that the President "was keeping an open mind on the possible peace formula with Estrada, including a shorter term."

Both sides agree that reconciliation is necessary for the good of the country. "For me, that is a good starting point and we believe that it is best to keep an open mind on things to keep the process moving forward,'" Defensor said.

He echoed a statement made by El Shaddai leader Bro. Mike Velarde on the aborted Saturday night meeting between the President and Estrada.

Velarde, who was called the prophet of reconciliation by the President, said the peace formula between Ms Arroyo and Estrada could include amending the Constitution and holding new elections immediately thereafter, implying a reduction in the President's term.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita did not return the INQUIRER's calls.

But in a radio interview, Ermita confirmed that Defensor had been handpicked by the President herself to broker the reconciliation talks with Estrada.

But while allies such as President Fidel V. Ramos had endorsed a graceful exit for her through Charter change and elections next year, the President has so far stood her ground that she has a mandate to serve up to 2010.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, a common ally of the President and Estrada, said any reconciliation talks with Estrada should include a sacrifice on Ms Arroyo's part to reduce her term because this was what her critics have been demanding.

Malacañang yesterday reiterated that its offer of reconciliation was sincere and not just a political ploy.

Opposition says GMA phoning solons for support

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she is telling the truth or if the lawmakers are lying," he said.

He warned the President that she would also "lose" if the impeachment complaint were junked due to technical or procedural rules.

Gambling payoffs

"The losers will be our country, our people, and even President Arroyo because the issue will not be resolved. The issue will remain and will continue to hound her and our country," he said.

The House committee on justice is to vote today on whether to resolve first the prejudicial questions about the impeachment process, including which among the various complaints should be recognized, or to go directly to the issue of form and substance.

The impeachment complaints center on allegations Ms Arroyo had cheated in last year's elections and claims her family had received illegal gambling payoffs—charges the President has vehemently denied.

Only 41 representatives have signed the impeachment complaint. At least 79 votes, or one-third of the House membership, are required to move it to trial in the Senate.

"We hope we will move forward in that direction and, after our presentation of evidence, perhaps the President would also be given the opportunity to present her side. Unless of course she cannot prove her innocence, which is why they want to kill the amended complaint early on," Escudero said.

Reconciliation

Escudero, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño and Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico also said in a press conference yesterday that the impeachment complaint against the President would proceed despite her offer to reconcile with ousted President Joseph Estrada, the titular head of the opposition.

"The view of the impeachment team is that the impeachment will proceed. Whatever the talks of President Arroyo and President Estrada are, this has to go on. There is no compromise here," Casiño said.

"The 'Garci tapes' and the evidence on corruption and her human rights record will not be erased by any reconciliation talks. If they're thinking that we are going to back out and these evidence would just disappear, they're dreaming," he added.

Casiño said that the complaint against Ms Arroyo would not be withdrawn since some of the complainants had also worked for Estrada's impeachment and eventual ouster in January 2001.

"One assurance that the impeachment complaint will not be compromised is the fact that the complainants include those groups that ousted Estrada,'" he said.

He was referring to Bayan Muna and its leftist party-list allies, as well as members of the Liberal Party who reject the prospect of Estrada being released.

"The impeachment team as a whole will not agree that what we are doing here will be sold in exchange for what is being reported as Estrada's possible release. For us, Estrada should face charges in court, in the Sandiganbayan, just as President Arroyo should answer charges (against her) in Congress," Casiño said.

Nothing but propaganda

"Reports that we will flip-flop in exchange for the so-called reconciliation are nothing but propaganda," he added.

Escudero and Suplico questioned Ms Arroyo's sincerity in calling for reconciliation with Estrada, noting that she did not do this immediately after he was deposed in January 2001.

"We should not forget the crimes that were committed just because of this so-called reconciliation. The liability and responsibility of those who broke the law remain," Escudero said.

"Is her offer sincere? And why is it that this is being pushed now that her position is precarious. It is only now that she has a big problem that she is suddenly reaching out to different groups," he added.

Suplico said that, like Ms Arroyo's televised apology for talking to an election officer, her offer of reconciliation was insincere.

He said that if the President wanted to show that she was sincere in her call, she should tell her allies in Congress not to kill, but instead endorse, the impeachment complaint against her.

"One indication of her sincerity would be for her to tell her allies to endorse the complaint so that it could proceed. In the first place, she's the one who told us to bring our complaints to Congress," Suplico said.

Protests warned

"When all legitimate ways have been exhausted and nothing happens, then we will go back to the streets," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, United Opposition chair.

In spite of a lull in the anti-Arroyo campaign in the streets, Binay said he was confident there would be a "hundredfold" increase in the number of protesters.

But while the legislature has yet to decide the fate of the impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo, Binay said he was keeping his fingers crossed.

"I hope they will give the process a chance. Or else the people will have no other option," he said.

Former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said she and other resigned Cabinet secretaries and Malacañang officials were preparing to testify in the impeachment trial of Ms Arroyo.

"We have been meeting regularly. We also have our own lawyer," said Soliman, regarded as a close friend of the President's until she joined nine key Malacañang officials, known collectively as the Hyatt 10, in resigning in July and calling on Ms Arroyo to quit. *With reports from Tarra V. Quismundo and Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Senators balk at Charter change consultative body

From page A1

and complete it by year's end. It said the panel would propose amendments and revisions to the 1987 Constitution that was written after the dictator Ferdinand Marcos was toppled.

The commission will submit its report to Ms Arroyo, who, along with an advisory group, would look at its recommendations and submit an executive branch position to Congress for its scrutiny and approval.

Sen. Joker Arroyo balked at the idea of convening a consultative body before Congress could agree to amend the Constitution, likening it to "putting the cart before the horse."

"What will the consultative assembly composed of wise men and women do? Assemble, study, deliberate, and submit recommendations? To whom and about what? Congress has not decided on what to do," said the maverick administration senator.

Standing ground

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. warned Malacañang that the Charter change proposal would not "move past square one" in the Senate. Many of the senators, he stressed, were "standing their ground" to put changes to the Constitution on hold until the impeachment case against Ms Arroyo was resolved.

"Charter change must be preceded by Mrs. Arroyo's departure from the seat of power so that the new leader of the nation can be supported by all elements of society without reservation," he said.

Pimentel said that moves to attempt to shift to another form of government were a mere smokescreen for Ms Arroyo to stay in power.

Ms Arroyo is facing impeachment amid allegations she rigged last year's elections and her family received illegal gambling payoffs. She has adamantly denied the charges.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, also an administration ally, said: "It's premature to form the constitutional commission for a purpose to which the assent of the Senate has not been given."

"The commission is supposed to recommend," said Senate President Franklin Drilon of the opposition Liberal Party. "But what will it recommend when the President said she favors a parliamentary and federal system of government?"

Nothing wrong

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, however, said the panel's work need not necessarily preempt Congress' action.

"My understanding of the constitutional commission is for it to go around the country and hear the views of people," he said. "Nothing wrong in that."

Abueva said while 80 percent of the studies on Charter changes had been done by his group, there was a need to focus on discussing its findings as well as to reach out to more local leaders and more sectors of society.

Yesterday, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that through the commission, "the President wants to bring down the discussions and debates on Charter change close to the people."

Bunye told reporters that the work to be done by the consultative commission would be "useful inputs" for Congress when it starts to deliberate on the matter.

"The work of the consultative commission can reinforce the parallel work to be done by Congress and make it even easier because we are sure that men of proven integrity, competence and honesty will be volunteering for this," he said.

Drilon dismissed the body as just "another study group."

"The ultimate responsibility will be in both houses of Congress to determine what amendments will be proposed to the Constitution. But again this presupposes that both houses will agree," Drillon said.

In his statement, Senator Arroyo also indicated that Speaker Jose de Venecia, the President's chief ally in the House of Representatives, wasn't helping in her efforts to amend the Constitution.

Best argument

By limiting the signatories to the minority's Articles of Impeachment to 41 through "power and stratagem," the Speaker has virtually shown that the parliamentary system "is not good for us," he said.

"Speaker De Venecia, who is the prime mover of Cha-cha (Charter change) because he wants to be prime minister, is the best argument against Charter change," he said.

The House needs 79 signatures to automatically transmit the impeachment complaint to the Senate.

Arroyo pointed out that De Venecia, while not prime minister yet, had "corralled 83 percent of the House membership" not to sign the Articles of Impeachment "which does not even involve him."

"What more if a no-confidence vote is presented that affects himself directly? The no-confidence advocates cannot and will not get the 51 percent. JDV (De Venecia) or whoever is the prime minister will sit there forever in perpetuity, and we cannot change him anymore," he added, debunking the popular belief that a prime minister could be easily removed with a no-confidence vote.

President woos tycoons to her advisory group

From page A1

A Malacañang official said that among the core members being considered for inclusion in the proposed advisory council were SGV & Co. founder Washington Sycip, Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, SM Group executive vice president Tessie Sy-Coson, Phinma chair Oscar Hilado and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. vice chair and CEO Cesar E.A. Virata.

The official, who requested anonymity, said Ms Arroyo had long been wooing these business leaders to join her advisory group that would recommend economic policy reforms needed to sustain the country's growth.

Earlier plan

But Ms Arroyo's move to recruit these business leaders into her brain trust hit a snag on July 8 when her economic team led by Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima urged her to step down. Purisima and the other members of the so-called Hyatt 10 said Ms Arroyo's struggle for political survival had become a hindrance to good governance and policy implementation.

That same day, the leadership of the influential Makati Business Club also joined calls for Ms Arroyo to resign. The MBC's resign call was later criticized by some of the group's members who said they were not consulted on such a big issue.

Even so, the Palace official said Ms Arroyo remain undeterred in her plan to organize her business advisory group. The official said the President had continued to host low-key dinners with these industry captains over the past few weeks.

"Her goal is to quietly rebuild unity of business groups in order to get a consensus on new reform ideas and secure support for her reforms," the source said.

Confirmed

A source close to Coson, the eldest daughter of retail king Henry Sy, confirmed that she had attended some of these dinners with the President and other businessmen. The source, however, denied that Coson had been designated one of the President's advisers.

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said Ms Arroyo has been wooing the country's leading businessmen to support her efforts to put the economy back on track amid a looming oil crisis.

"The President believes that we need a concentrated effort if we are going to solve not only the fiscal crisis but more importantly the looming oil crisis," said Chua.

He said the President's commitment to address all allegations against her—from jueteng payoffs involving her family to cheating in last year's elections—should allay fears of businessmen that the political crisis would adversely affect the economy in the face of surging world oil prices.

Crucial week

This week is crucial for Ms Arroyo as opposition attempts to impeach her come to a head and the Supreme Court rules on the legality of the expanded value-added tax law, the centerpiece of her economic reform plans.

The high court is expected to lift its suspension of the VAT law, boosting Ms Arroyo's image with international ratings agencies concerned about the country's huge debts but making life harder for millions of poor people.

Still, some political analysts have voiced doubts Ms Arroyo will be able to regain the confidence of the entire business community.

During his short-lived tenure, then President Joseph Estrada formed in January 2000 a high-powered Council of Senior Economic Advisers to guide him on economic policy. The body was made up of Sycip, Zobel de Ayala, Virata, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel Singson and former Sen. Vicente Paterno.

Ten months later, the members of the council, except Singson, resigned amid the "Juetengate I" scandal. Estrada was ousted in January 2001 in the Edsa II people power revolution.

.6M deployed abroad in first 8 months

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NUMBER of overseas Filipino workers deployed so far this year surpassed the 600,000 mark this month, bringing the Department of Labor and Employment closer to its target of sending one million workers abroad by the end of 2005.

From Jan. 1 to Aug. 11, 609,973 OFWs went abroad, up from the 598,174 who left in the same period last year.

The DOLE attributed the increase to the rise in number of newly hired land-based workers, on top of the re-hired land-based OFWs that still make up the bulk of Filipino workers worldwide.

As of Aug. 11, the number of new hires stood at 164,857, complementing the 291,603 re-hired workers. The number of sea-based OFWs stood at 153,513.

In a statement, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said the number of new hires could be an indication of foreign employers' preference for Filipinos, which in turn could be attributed to the government's efforts to promote them.

Sto. Tomas said the government's anti-illegal recruitment efforts and its emphasis on quality training made Filipinos attractive to overseas employers despite increased competition from other labor-exporting countries.

"The fact is corroborated by a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report showing that the sustained growth in OFW remittances was partly due to the multilingual proficiency, information technology literacy and other value-enhancing training afforded the OFWs prior to their deployment," she said.

OFW remittances greatly help keep the Philippine economy afloat, it has been acknowledged.

Sto. Tomas said a Labor Market Intelligence Report (LMIR) by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority showed that 808,097 newly hired OFWs, or an average of almost 270,000 per year, were employed in various countries from 2002 to 2004.

The LMIR also stated that acceptance of newly hired OFWs was evident in the three skills categories of professional and technical workers, services workers and production workers.

Globally, foreign countries accepted 294,251 newly hired OFWs in the services categories, 271,650 in the professional and technical categories, and 193,556 in the production categories. Some 48,640 others were hired in the administrative and managerial, clerical, sales, agricultural and other categories from 2002 to 2004.

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Workers' group urges RP to protest maid abuse in UAE

A MIGRANT workers' group yesterday urged the government to file a protest and review ties with the United Arab Emirates following reports that a rising number of Filipino maids are being abused by their employers in the Gulf country.

More than 60 Filipino maids have sought refuge at the Philippine consulate in Dubai, living in a makeshift shelter there to escape beatings and sexual harassment and seek unpaid wages.

Filipino women have been flooding into the fast-growing city to work as maids for as little as $160 a month.

But the influx has led to the number seeking shelter to double in recent weeks, with as many as five runaways a day fleeing to the consulate, labor attache Vicente Cabe said Wednesday in Dubai.

"The Philippine government should immediately lodge a diplomatic protest and review our relations with the United Arab Emirates in view of new reports of abused Filipino workers," Migrante said in a statement. "The Philippine government must take immediate action to teach host countries ... that it is not right to condone abusive employers and leave guest workers without a livelihood, without food and without justice."

Consular officials said some runaway maids show up with bruises or alleged sexual assault.

Three men have been jailed in the Emirates this year for alleged rape of Filipina maids.

With so many reports of abuse, Indonesia recently banned unskilled women from working in the Gulf as house maids. Philippine Consul-General Generoso Calonge said he wanted his government to do the same.

Cabe estimated some 36,000 maids are among more than 200,000 Filipinos working in the Emirates. The maids work for local Arabs as well as expatriate European and Asian families. Nearly 2 million Filipinos live and work in the Arab countries on the Gulf, he said.

The increase in abuse cases stems from two sources: the burgeoning number of maids arriving in Dubai, one of the world's fastest growing cities, and the awareness that they can go to the consulate to report it, Calonge said.

The consulate is working with Dubai authorities to quickly return the women to the Philippines. Dozens of runaways are stuck at the consulate – with 25 sleeping in one room – until Cabe or other diplomats are able to persuade employers to pay back wages and buy them tickets home. *AP*

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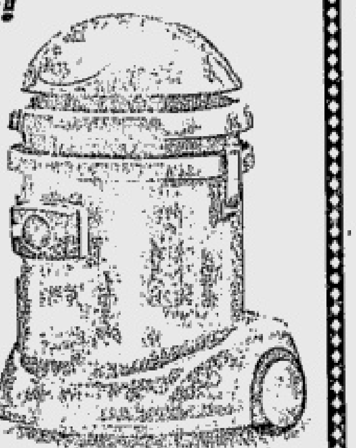

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August 25, 2005 10:00 11:00 am	Opening Ceremony
2:00 - 3:00 pm	New Opportunities with Powder Metallurgy (PM) Steels for Tooling Applications by: ASSAB Venue: Seminar Room 1 Allen Specialty Seminar Venue: Seminar Room 2
1:30 - 4:30 pm	Heat Treatment by: Philippine Metalcasting Associations Inc Fee: Php 400.00 Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00 pm	"Durable from the Foundry Mold Dream" by: Philippine Metalcasting Association Inc Fee: Php 400.00 / Venue: Seminar Room 2
August 26, 2005 10:00 - 11:00 pm	Heat Treatment & Problem and Their Solutions by: Penta Technological, Inc. Venue: Seminar Room 1
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Automation in Machine Building in the Philippines by: OCMAP Venue: Seminar Room 1 Starret Measuring Instrument by: Mardan Enterprises Venue: Seminar Room 2
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Mitutoyo Form Measures by: MESCO, Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Designing Molds, Quickly, Accurately and Cost Effective with Solidworks by: SEACAD Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30	SYSTEM 3R Seminar by: MESCO Inc "By Invitation Only" Venue: Seminar Room 1 Solid Edge Version 17 Design with Insight by: Technologia Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00	Licom Alpha CAM 2-5 axis CNC Machining Easy and Powerful by: Hicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1
August 27, 2005 10:00 11:30 pm	Allbee Design Product Presentation by: Alra Maquinas Fundamentales and MDC Venue: Seminar Room 2
10:00 - 12:00 pm	3 Metal Mania: 3M Innovations for the Metal Industry by: 3M Philippines Venue: Seminar Room 1
2:00 - 3:00 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines In Venue: Seminar Room 1 Technical Innovations for the Die & Mold Industry by: Level Asia & CIM Technologies Venue: Seminar Room 2
3:30 - 4:30 pm	CoroPak 05.2 New Product Launch by: Sandvik Philippines In Venue: Seminar Room 1 Alphacam Programming Software by: Penta Technology, Inc Venue: Seminar Room 2
5:00 - 6:00 pm	Licom AlphaCAM, 2-5 axis CNC Machining easy and powerful by: Hicklaus Machinery Venue: Seminar Room 1

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Beware of religious fads, Pope tells youth

COLOGNE, Germany—Pope Benedict XVI issued a ringing back-to-basics call to more than one million young Catholics on Sunday at a giant open air Mass which marked a triumphant finale to his first foreign visit as pope.

Wrapping up a four-day visit to his native Germany, the 78-year-old Pontiff said young people should turn their backs on secularism and faddish new-age religions.

He said there was "a kind of new explosion of religion" that if pushed too far, turned faith into "almost a consumer product."

The huge open-air Mass was the culmination of a visit which swung between the spiritual and the political as Benedict made important progress to fulfilling his pledge to build "bridges of friendship" with other faiths. He visited both Cologne's synagogue, where he condemned the "unimaginable crime" of the Holocaust, and a mosque.

Benedict returned to his summer residence at Castelgandolfo near Rome late on Sunday. During his two-hour flight home his Lufthansa plane flew at low altitude over the Pope's native village of Markt am Inn in Bavaria, which lay on a special display of lights and candles so that the Pontiff could see it from the air.

Shortly before his departure, the Pope had time to lament the "dramatic" shortage of new recruits to the priesthood in his homeland, and urged German bishops to do more to get new vocations.

Outlining the problems facing the Church in his homeland, he said "secularism and de-Christianization" continued to rise, while the "influence of Catholic ethics and morals were in constant decline."

Yet, he warned them there could be "no false compromises, no watering down of Gospel," in efforts to attract young people to the Church.

Earlier Sunday, in a 20-minute homily dominated by a staunch defense of the everyday practice of religion against secularism, the Pope warned the multinational crowd of young pilgrims that constructing their faith on a "do-it-yourself" basis would ultimately prove fruitless.

"People choose what they like, and some are even able to make a profit from it. But religion constructed on a 'do-it-yourself' basis cannot ultimately help us."

Many in the huge multi-hued crowd, including Asians and Africans as well as Europeans, Latin Americans and Americans, spent the night at the site where the Mass was held, a former coal mine on the outskirts of Cologne.

Some 700,000 had attended a prayer-vigil with Benedict the night before, but the World Youth Day organizers said the numbers had swelled to "more than one million" by Sunday. In addition, 250 million television viewers around the world watched the papal Mass, according to Fritz Pleitgen, president of WDR television, which retransmitted the images.

Though shy and retiring, and lacking the forceful personality of his predecessor John Paul II who reveled in such occasions, Benedict appears to have turned a corner in his pontificate and embellished his once rather dry appeal to young people with his first foreign trip.

The young crowd gave Benedict a noisy reception under a huge canopy of swirling flags when he arrived aboard his popemobile, waving and blessing the crowd.

Before beginning the Mass, he raised a huge cheer when he said: "I would like to have been able to go through the crowd and greet each and every one of you. That was not possible, but I greet you warmly."

At one point, the Pope cajoled them like a grandfather, gently urging them to "make the effort" to attend Sunday Mass.

Benedict urged the young Catholics to keep God at the center of their lives and underlined the importance of Sunday Mass and receiving Holy Communion.

And the huge crowd seemed to appreciate the Pope's gently delivered message, which sought to convey his own burning enthusiasm for the deeper mysteries of faith and the Mass.

"He seemed a lot younger and more vibrant than we had expected," said George Pierce, 17, from the US state of Pennsylvania.

"Having heard his homily, I have a much better understanding of him and of his past. I feel I have got to know him." *AFP*

POPE Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims during Sunday's Mass at Marienfeld near Cologne, Germany, Aug. 21, as part of the World Youth jamboree.

AFP

Spain gets first married priest

MADRID, Spain—Spain got its first married priest this weekend when a Canary island bishop ordained an Anglican pastor as a Roman Catholic priest, news reports said Monday.

Zimbabwe-born Evans David Gliwitzki, who has two daughters aged 30 and 40, was ordained Sunday in the town of La Laguna on the island of Tenerife by Bishop Felipe Fernandez, leading daily El Pais said.

The bishop said the marriage had the full support of Spain's Roman Catholic Church. He said it was an exceptional case to favor unity between churches and did not in any way signal a departure from the Catholic church's insistence that its priests be celibate.

"It's a gesture of respect toward the Anglican Church, which does permit matrimony (among ministers)," El Pais quoted Fernandez as saying.

"In Britain, it's more common for Anglican ministers to become Catholic priests although this is the first case in Spain," he added.

Cutting off speculation that the move could signal some change in church policy, the bishop said the marriage was a "one-off exception, adding that "no door is being opened to the absolution of celibacy," El Pais quoted him as saying.

Spain's Catholic church was rocked recently by the Socialist government's introduction of a bill permitting gay marriages. The church has also strongly opposed a government move making religion an optional subject in schools and one which does not count in exams.

Gliwitzki, son of a Polish Catholic and Anglican mother, worked for the Zimbabwe rail company, El Pais said. He was ordained a minister in 1984 and has long worked for the unity of Christians, organizing many conferences between ministers and priests of the two churches. *AP*

Maraviroc shows promise vs AIDS, study suggests

RIO DE JANEIRO—Results from early-stage clinical trials, presented recently at the 3rd International AIDS Society Conference on Pathogenesis and Treatment, indicate that maraviroc, an investigational drug for treatment of HIV/AIDS, was well-tolerated and decreased patient levels of HIV significantly in 10-day monotherapy studies in asymptomatic HIV-positive patients.

Maraviroc works through a different mechanism of action from currently marketed drugs.

In a category of compounds known as "CCR5-antagonists," maraviroc blocks HIV from entering white blood cells, where the virus replicates, takes over the cell's DNA for its own reproduction, and ultimately destroys a patient's immune system.

Pfizer researchers at the company's Sandwich, UK laboratories identified the lead compound that they ultimately refined to become maraviroc in 1997. Maraviroc is now in advanced development, currently enrolling worldwide phase 2b/3 trials.

Pfizer also announced that the US Food and Drug Administration has granted fast-track designation for maraviroc's clinical development program.

BURNT trees show the fury of a forest fire which swept through the outskirts of Viana do Castelo city in northern Portugal Aug. 21.

REUTERS

Portugal hard put to contain wildfires

LISBON—Water-dropping aircraft from Germany and Italy were set to arrive in Portugal on Monday as the fire-ravaged country struggled to contain the biggest wave of wildfires to hit it so far this year.

Over 2,700 firefighters were battling dozens of wildfires, including 27 which raced out of control across tinder-dry forests, mostly in the center and north of the country, facing its worst drought since 1945.

Two Canadair water-dropping planes from France and one from neighboring Spain which arrived in the country on Sunday joined firefighters in their battle against the flames for the first time, the civil protection agency said.

But the three helicopters expected from Germany and one water-dropping aircraft due from Italy would be deployed only on Tuesday because they will only arrive too close to sundown, the agency said.

Germany is sending 25 anti-fire specialists along with the helicopters to help Portuguese firefighters battle blazes which overnight neared the central city of Coimbra, the nation's third largest.

About a dozen homes were destroyed by the flames in suburban Coimbra before a change in wind direction reduced the risk to the city from the advancing flames, firefighters and local officials said.

"Houses have been burned and the situation is very serious," the governor of the district of Coimbra, Henrique Fernandes, said.

The largest single deployment of firefighters is around the Portel town, where 176 people backed by 55 vehicles are battling a fire. *AFP*

New probe of Aussie PM's fate 40 years ago launched

SYDNEY—Australian authorities launched a new investigation Monday into the mystery surrounding the disappearance nearly 40 years ago of then prime minister Harold Holt.

Holt went missing on Dec. 17, 1967, at the age of 59 after going swimming at a beach near the southeastern city of Melbourne.

Conspiracy theories have abounded over the fate of the conservative politician, with theories ranging from suicide to a CIA assassination, a love triangle or an espionage plot involving China.

Most people, however, accept the official explanation that Holt simply drowned.

The new investigation is the result of changed legislation enabling the Victoria state coroner to investigate suspected drownings where no body was found.

Holt's disappearance is one of 85 cases to be investigated by Coroner Graeme Johnstone as a result of the change.

British author Anthony Grey claimed that the Australian leader was actually a Chinese spy who fled his country aboard a Chinese submarine.

Another conspiracy theory is that he was killed by the CIA for wanting to withdraw Australian troops from Vietnam.

But the inspector who investigated the case at the time, Lawrence Newell, told the Coroner's Court in Melbourne Monday that the conspiracy theorists were dreaming.

"I know there have been a number of various solutions put forward by various members of the public but I have no thoughts other than it happened as an accident, as an unfortunate occurrence in the manner of which it was an accidental drowning," the 85-year-old retired inspector said.

"I think he went for a swim under conditions where he was most unwise and that's it, and he got swept out to Bass Strait," Newell later told reporters outside the court, according to the Australian news agency AAP.

Holt was with four friends on the day of his disappearance, including his mistress Marjorie Gillespie.

"I watched Harold continuously and the water became turbulent around him very suddenly and seemed to boil and these conditions seemed to swamp him," Gillespie told police according to the brief of evidence tendered to the court.

Coroner Johnstone is due to hand down his findings on Holt's death and the other suspected drownings on Sept. 2. *AFP*

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Nearly half of Asia's children living in poverty, says charity

BANGKOK—From the garbage dumps of New Delhi to the tsunami-hit coastlines of Indonesia, nearly 600 million Asian children, or half its young population, are living in poverty, a leading child charity said on Monday.

"What is happening here is catastrophic," said Michael Diamond, Asia director for Plan, an international development agency, at the launch of a "Growing up in Asia" report on child welfare in the region.

Despite rapid economic growth in many countries, including the world's most populous nations, China and India, many Asian children are being left behind and lack access to basics such as food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, education and sanitation.

If nothing is done by rich and poor countries alike, the lost potential—and lost lives—could be one of the most tragic failings of modern times, Diamond said.

"We will be judged in future generations, the future centuries, when they write the history and compare us maybe to the holocaust," he said.

Detailing poverty across the region, the report said around 350 million children—nearly one in three of Asia's youngsters—were "absolutely poor," meaning they do not have access to two or more of a child's basic necessities.

Another 250 million or so had no access to one of the basics, making for a total of about 600 million poor children in the region.

Outlining a strategy to spend $1 billion in 12 Asian countries in the next decade, the 68-year-old agency said it would try to give children a voice and change the attitudes of many societies toward their treatment of the under-18s.

"People say, 'Why do you have this problem? Is it lack of good governance? Is it corruption? Is it attitudes, cultures, customs, mores?' The answer is it's all of those," said Plan chief executive Tom Miller.

"We are talking about the next generation, about children who haven't had a say in their lives to date, who have had adults taking their decisions for them," he added.

Miller, a career US diplomat, also called on the world's richest regions, in particular North America and Europe, to cut domestic agricultural subsidies to allow farmers in the world's poorest countries to make more from their exports.

Rich nations should also forgive third world debt, the report said, although it said this must go hand-in-glove with improved levels of governance to ensure the most vulnerable feel the benefits in the form of improved health services and education. *Reuters*

Africa needs fish farms to halt decline in fish eating due to dwindling supply

ABUJA—Investment in fish farms in Africa is urgently needed to halt a decline in fish consumption in the continent because natural stocks cannot keep up with population growth, experts said on Monday.

Some 200 million Africans rely on fish as a main part of their diet, but the continent is the only region in the world where fish supplies per capita are falling, according to reports prepared for a "Fish for All" summit in the Nigerian capital.

"The main reason for this decline is the stagnation in 'capture fish' production combined with a fast-growing population," said Patrick Dugan of the WorldFish Center, a Malaysia-based international research organization.

Just to maintain today's fish consumption levels, African fish supply would have to triple by 2020. In a continent where a third of the population is undernourished, the stakes are high.

One answer, according to the WorldFish Center, is to develop small-scale fish farms which are cheap and easy to set up and offer poor families a source of nutrition as well as income.

Fish farms can also improve the lot of people with HIV/AIDS as fish contain combinations of proteins, vitamins and minerals that fortify the body against secondary infections while increasing the effectiveness of anti-retroviral drugs.

In a Malawi pilot scheme, families hit by HIV/AIDS, including many headed by widows and orphans, found that adding a small fish pond to an existing farm improved their situation without creating too much extra work.

"Their nutrition has improved because they are eating fish and they are using the income from selling excess catch to obtain medical attention, including HIV and AIDS care and medicines," said Daniel Jamu, WorldFish program director for southern Africa. *Reuters*

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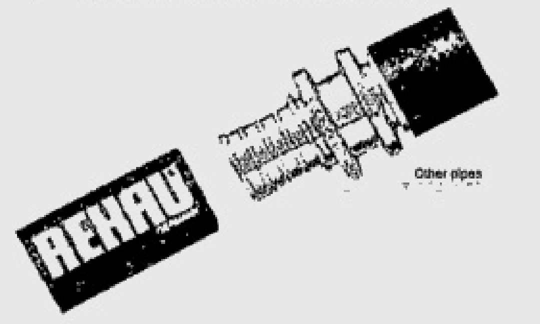

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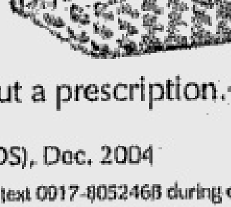

Now available without a prescription.

* Source: IMS (PADDS), Dec. 2004

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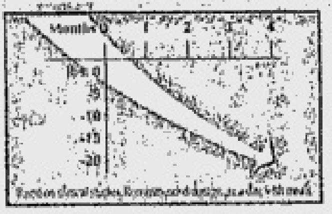

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- Don't waste the opportunity to lose weight with Xenical by continuing to eat badly! Eating too much causes excess weight. Now is the time to stop consuming high calorie fatty foods to allow the Xenical action to completely work.
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Should I take Xenical if I am on a diet?
Yes. Clinical studies have shown that when taken with a caloric reduced diet, Xenical will increase the amount of weight loss by 51%[3].

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1 - IMS (PADDS), Dec. 2004
2 - Medical Journal of Diabetes Care, Vol. 27, No. 1, Jan 2004 issue by Jarl S. Torgerson MD, PHD, et al
3 - John Foreyt, Ph.D, Kristine Napier M.P.H., RD and Louise Aronne, M.D., F.A.C.P., The Xenical Advantage: How to use the remarkable new FDA-approved drug to lose weight faster and keep it off Safely and Effectively (New York: Simon & Schuster Inc., 1999), 22-23.

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OPINION

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Reconciliation

EDITORIAL

RECONCILIATION is the word of the month for the Arroyo administration. President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to be reconciled with former President Joseph Estrada, supposedly in the interest of national unity. But what kind of reconciliation is it going to be? Going by media accounts, it appears it's going to be anything but a principled one.

Estrada wants to be released from detention as a condition for reconciliation. But legal luminaries, led by Sen. Joker Arroyo, have said that that is not possible unless the law is first amended. Estrada is facing a charge of plunder which, being a capital offense, is not bailable. If Estrada is to be released on recognizance, the law on plunder has to be amended first to reduce the penalty.

But why amend the law for the benefit of just one man? What makes Estrada's case so unique, so extraordinary that he should deserve such an unprecedented treatment?

Senator Arroyo also said that Estrada cannot be pardoned unless he is first convicted by the courts. That rules out both release on recognizance and pardon at this point.

If Estrada is going to be released on recognizance, it would mean the President's interference in the decisions of the Sandiganbayan which is trying the case against her predecessor. That would violate the constitutional principle of separation of powers.

That President Arroyo wants to be reconciled with Estrada is understandable. At this crucial point in her public life, she needs as many friends as possible and as few enemies as possible. She needs to "neutralize" the former president who, at the El Shaddai rally only last Saturday night, showed that he still weaves that old magic and charisma that can mesmerize the masses. A still influential Estrada can indeed be a potent enemy who, even from his detention resthouse in Tanay, can mobilize tens of thousands in the event that the debate over impeachment spills out into the streets.

We are for reconciliation and we are for national unity, especially at this time when the economy is in danger of going over the brink. But it must be a principled reconciliation, one that will not require the amendment of laws or a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of powers and the intervention of one department of government in another.

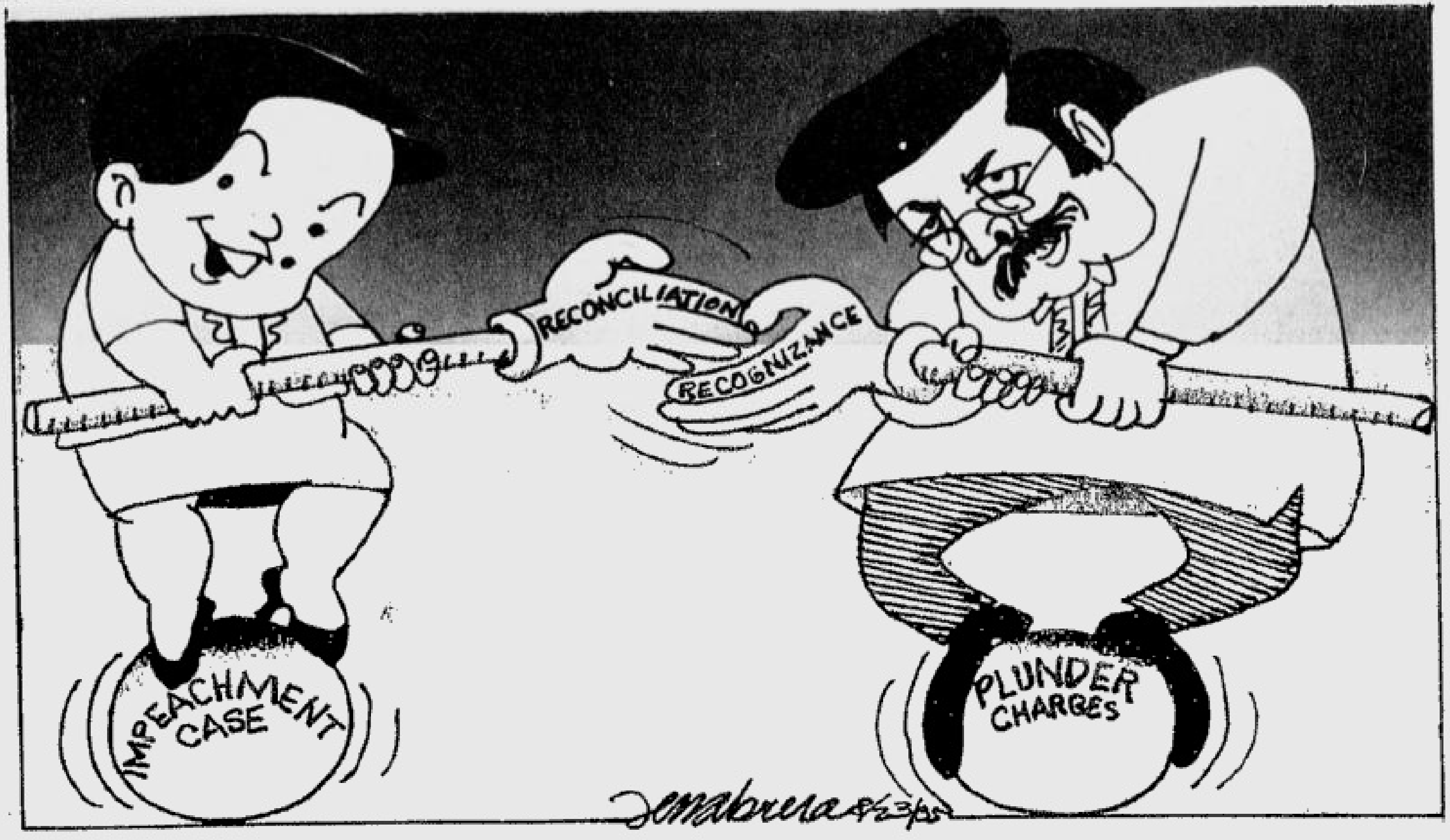
It appears that the President is ready and willing to do anything, even violate the Constitution and the laws, just to get into the good graces of Estrada. Ever since she replaced Estrada as his constitutional successor in 2001, she has been accommodating almost all of his requests. First he was transferred from a detention cell in Camp Crame to a suite at the Veterans Memorial Hospital. Later, he was moved to a detention house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. He was transferred to Camp Capinpin in Tanay. Then, he was allowed to transfer to his resthouse, also in Tanay.

Estrada has been allowed to leave his detention house on various occasions, such as the birthday of his mother and more recently, the rally of El Shaddai. He was allowed to go to Hong Kong to undergo a knee operation. While in Hong Kong, he stayed at a luxurious apartment, had gourmet dinners and lived it up. He has not been treated as a detainee facing the capital crime of plunder. Others of less prominence and lower station than he are being treated worse. So what can he complain of?

Two former South Korean presidents—Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan—were treated like ordinary prisoners when they were detained on graft and corruption charges. They wore the usual prison garb and stayed in an ordinary prison together with the other prisoners. They were not given extraordinary treatment. Here, Estrada is being given special treatment and he still complains about his situation.

Let Estrada continue to suffer detention while the plunder case against him is being tried. If he believes he is not guilty and wants to be released soon, he and his lawyers should do everything to speed up the hearing of the case. Right now, they are doing everything, resorting to every technicality in the law books, to delay a possible guilty verdict.

If the former president is not guilty, the court will rule so and release him immediately. If he is guilty, the court will also rule so and order the imposition of the appropriate penalty on him. Reconciliation talks between him and the Arroyo administration can in the meantime continue, but they should discuss a principled reconciliation, not one that would involve the violation of the Constitution and the laws, and the principles of justice.



'Our solitary boast'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TIME magazine titled a recent cover story "Hail, Mary." It devoted eight pages to Jesus of Nazareth's mother.

"A Mary for All" was how the Economist bannered an earlier report. And Life magazine led off with "The Mystery of Mary." And shortly thereafter, Time did a two-page spread titled, "Mary, So Contrary."

What's going on here? After centuries of "sullen neglect....Christians of all denominations are finding their own reasons to venerate Mary," Time reports. Families, pastors and theologians, within US Protestant churches, are rediscovering the Virgin Mother.

Harvard University minister Peter Gomes notes this trend in a joke about a Protestant pastor at heaven's gates. "Ah, Professor. I know you've met my Father," Jesus says in making the introductions. "But I believe you don't know my mother."

The new appreciation of Mary stems from the very arena in which Protestants historically pride themselves most: a careful and full reading of Scriptures.

Mary stood by the Cross. And she figures in "a skein of appearances longer and more strategically placed than any other character in Scriptures," Beverly Gaventa, Princeton University professor of New Testament literature, points out.

"She is present in all key situations—at Jesus' birth, at his death and in the Upper Room," Gaventa writes in "Personalities of the New Testament," Whether in Egypt, Nazareth or Cana, "there isn't a figure comparable to her."

The new thinkers are exploring the implications of Mary's excruciating presence at the crucifixion. She "kept Christian witness intact almost single-handedly through its darkest moment."

There are critics, Time notes. Southern Baptist Convention leaders complain their colleagues are "guilty of over-reaching."

That would baffle Muslims. Mary is Islam's most honored woman, the Economist notes. She's "the only one to have an entire chapter named after her in the Koran."

"Christians and Muslims alike see in Mary an affirmation that there is no limit to proximity of God that any human can attain," the report asserts. "Surely, that is reason enough for people of any faith to feel reverence for history's foremost Jewish mother."

The Economist cites the "wisdom" texts in Jewish and Christian scriptures and the Eastern Church's lesser-known Gospel by James. It reviews studies by Methodist Hebrew scholar Margaret Barker to Jaime Moran, religion and psychology writer.

Muslim and Eastern Christians "cherish the story of Mary's childhood in a place of supreme holiness. Both name Mary's guardian as the priest Zechariah or Zakariya."

"Catholics would tell you, rather firmly, that Mary is not a goddess," the Economist notes. "She is not worshipped but rather venerated: a human being with a unique role in praying for and protecting the human race."

That hews closely to Muslim belief.

The wisdom texts speak of a "woman clothed with the sun." And down the centuries, "heart-stopping turns of phrase" have been applied to Mary, the Economist notes. "Our tainted nature's solitary boast" was the way one poet put it.

"Shortly after Vatican II, a period of Marian silence descended," recalls Fr. Catalino Arevalo, SJ of the Ateneo de Manila University. "We, in the Philippines, did not go through that phase."

"Churches in former communist Eastern Europe have not experienced the 'eclipse of Mary' either," notes this Filipino theologian. "What strikes a mainland China visitor, who gets in contact with Catholics there, is that veneration of Mary has never been stronger."

That "Marian silence" and "dechristianization" of Europe led the German theologian Karl Rahner to write: "Many Catholics today are going through a winter of belief."

Once known as "Christendom," Europe built the continent's loveliest cathedrals from Chartres to Notre Dame. Now, Europe suffers from a "vacuum of faith," the Los Angeles Times notes. The Gallup Millennium Survey reveals barely 20 percent of West Europeans attend church services once a week.

"When the new springtime of faith comes ... the cult of Mary, the Mother of God, will return," Rahner added. "In fact, it will be its surest sign. Its form may perhaps be different, but if Christian tradition is valid, it will return."

That was in 1968. Today, Rahner's comments resound in essays by, among others, Lutheran Carl Braten: "I can't predict exactly how the (Mary rediscovery) will happen. Some of it will be good, and some may be bad. But I think it's going to happen."

Some 37 years after Rahner wrote of this "second spring," Arevalo notes, "this appears a remarkably prophetic text."

This comeback of Our Lady is seen on the dateline of stories from new Marian shrines—Medjugorje in Yugoslavia, Akita in Japan, Kibeho in Rwanda and Cuenca in Ecuador. "News accounts fueled renewed interest in the Marian movement."

Then, there was Pope John Paul II. "No pontiff in the entire history of Catholicism has had so strong and articulate a devotion to Mary." He willed that her logo be carved on his plain cedar coffin.

If Rahner was right, then perhaps the current cover stories may be more significant than they appear, Arevalo says. Are they buds of the "the new springtime of faith," which Rahner foresaw, about to begin?

* * *

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Seasons

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(*Conclusion*)

I CAN'T help it, second of all, because I am a writer.

Who wants to write about GMA when there is no lack of loftier subjects to talk about even in this country? Who wants to write about Fidel Ramos, Jose de Venecia, Raul Gonzalez and Mike Defensor when you can write about literature and music, the exhalations of the mind and the titillations of the heart?

People have asked me, "Don't you get tired of writing about politics when you can write about other things?"

I've always been tempted to answer, "Don't you get tired of being tired about politics when you can do better trying to understand it?" But being polite, I just say, "No, I don't. I can't just comment on the wonderful exchanges in 'Sideways' about the differences between Pinot and Merlot while the difference between good and bad, right and wrong, an elected president and an unelected one stares me in the face. I can't just reflect on the burst of literary and artistic creativity taking place in Asia right now when right at home I find only the stifling of freedom and basic decency. Law is too important to be left to lawyers. Politics is too important to be left to politicians."

I said something about this in the preface to my book, "Dunce of the Dunces" many years ago:

"One writes about things because one must. Because, as Edmund Hilary said when asked why he climbed Mt. Everest, it is there. In the end we do not really choose what to write, they choose us. They are there. We cannot choose to write only about what is bright and cheerful in the thought that the spirit is set free by them. The spirit cannot soar to the heavens on leaden wings. The spirit soars to the heavens by looking at all that is there, by reviling the vile and reveling at the marvelous, by facing the truth of its world and itself, as Hector faced Achilles amid the certainty of being killed, finding hope in despair, wrenching victory from defeat."

I remember that not long after I wrote those things, I saw an editor of a newspaper who wondered if I wasn't being a little OA then. Particularly the part where I said writing was a matter of life and death, the only way to write was as if your life depended upon it. Didn't you think you were exaggerating? he asked.

Well, what I did think was that it explained in part why he never got to be a good writer, or editor for that matter. But still being polite, I just said, "No, it might be OA to put it that way, but it's true. The day we stop giving weight to our words, or worse sell them cheaply for profit, is the day we reverse the order of Creation. Instead of saying 'Let there be light,' we say, 'Let there be darkness.'"

I do not raise my voice to tell the truth as I see it, I let others tell their lies as they want to.

And finally I can't help it because I am a human being.

When I speak of the people currently in power stealing not just our body but our soul, I mean it in every possible way. What separates human beings from animals is the capacity to sacrifice one's self if necessary to save others. Animals have no capacity for selflessness, only human beings do. Well, this is an order that isn't just stealing our patrimony, this is an order that is stealing our humanity. This is an order that is reducing us to the level of animals, capable only of thinking of ourselves: In times of want, hoard; in times of injustice, oppress; in times of tyranny, fly to America.

Indeed, it is more than that we are being taught to act this way, it is that we are being taught to accept it as the natural order of things. We are being taught to find justification, if not virtue, in self-interest, in self-protection, no, in selfishness itself. How else explain how cops and soldiers can raid with impunity Segundo Tabayoyong's house without warrant and without legal justification and seize election returns? Those ERs were the opposition's copies, provided them by election laws, which they entrusted to Tabayoyong for analysis. But there is no outrage over that brazen act of iniquity. It's almost as if we have come to believe that GMA is right to do everything in her power to protect herself, legal or illegal, moral or immoral, right or wrong. It is to be expected. It is to be accepted.

I don't know that you have to be a writer to be aghast at the scourge afflicting our country today, caused by a current squatter in Malacañang, who got there in the first place because of our toil and tears, even while she was busy waiting for a signal from God or the Pope, whichever came first, to do what needed to be done. I do not know that you have to be a writer to be furious at the way our capacity for goodwill, our basic decency, no, our humanity itself is being stripped from us, layer by layer, skin by skin, like a butcher peels off the hide from a dead animal, by a poacher in our political life. I don't know that you have to be a writer to feel compelled by a force more elemental than citizenship, which is the instinct to save your soul, to rise to stop this madness.

Being a human being will do.

I myself am not very religious but I find much wisdom in these words by Ecclesiastes:

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, a time to die; a time to sow, a time to reap; a time to kill, a time to heal; a time to break down, a time to build up; a time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, a time to be alone; a time to seek, a time to lose, a time to keep, a time to cast away; a time to tear, a time to sew; a time to keep silent, a time to speak; a time to love, a time to hate; a time for war, a time for peace."

Now is the time to speak. Now is the time to act.

SC decisively threw out second complaint

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TODAY at noon, the House of Representatives committee on justice is expected to tackle last Wednesday's unfinished business. This is the vote of the committee's 90 members on the prejudicial question of which of the three impeachment complaints—the Lozano complaint, the Lopez complaint and the amended complaint filed by the opposition—referred to the committee last July 25 will be tackled. This issue, Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman has argued, needs to be cleared up before the questions of sufficiency in form and substance can be tackled by the committee. This is a logical suggestion. The voting was deferred upon the request of the opposition.

* * *

Over the past week, this central issue had been at the forefront of debates inside the House as well as over media and in coffee shops. Which of the three complaints should be tackled? The majority maintains it should be the Lozano complaint since it was the first, filed a full month before the other two and also the first referred to the committee. The majority also holds that with the Lozano complaint, the provision of the Constitution in Sec. 3 (5), Article XI, which mandates that "no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year," is complied with. This provision was written into the Constitution to protect those in the highest offices so that they can do their jobs free from harassment. The opposition, however, holds that its amended complaint is an amendment of the Lozano complaint and should thus be recognized.

* * *

Interestingly, legal luminaries have come out with opposing positions. Four former Philippine Bar Association presidents have pointed out in a full-page ad that the Constitution is very clear on the one-year bar. If the amended complaint were to be adopted, opine the former PBA presidents, this would violate the law since the Lozano complaint is already there. Moreover, they say, the amended complaint is an entirely new one as well as a "disguised election complaint."

Constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas, who was a member of the Constitutional Commission of 1987 that drafted the charter, opines however that the one-year bar clearly refers to impeachment proceedings so that multiple complaints can be accommodated if they are consolidated. He says the opposition's amended complaint serves merely as a "bill of particulars" to the Lozano complaint. Some prominent lawyers, however, would take issue with Bernas' opinion, arguing that a bill of particulars is sought by the accused if he or she feels there's a need for clarification in the original case, which is not the case if entirely new and multiple allegations are made.

* * *

The four ex-PBA presidents—Federico Agcaoili, Arsenio Yulo, Rolando de la Cuesta and Federico Alikpala Jr.—as well as various members of the House majority coalition cite the Supreme Court decision in Francisco Jr. vs. The House of Representatives to strengthen their argument. That decision, penned by Justice Conchita Carpio Morales and issued late in 2003, threw out a second impeachment complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide on the ground that it was initiated in the same year as the first complaint, which was against him and seven other justices.

* * *

I did a little research and found out that the first complaint was filed by former President Estrada against Davide and seven SC magistrates in August 2003 on the issue of their alleged violation of the Constitution when Davide swore in President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2001. Before that case could be resolved, a second impeachment complaint was filed by Representatives Gilbert Teodoro Jr. and Felix William Fuentebella against Davide in October of the same year, this time for alleged misuse of the Judicial Development Fund. Seven petitions were filed before the Court challenging that second complaint, the first led by lawyer Ernesto Francisco. The Court's decision was very decisive. With the Chief Justice abstaining, 11 justices led by the *ponente*, Morales, voted to throw out the second complaint. To reinforce their decision, 10 of the justices issued concurring opinions, i.e, different opinions leading to the same conclusion: that a second impeachment complaint initiated in the same year is unconstitutional. Only three justices—Josue Bellosillo, Reynato Puno and Consuelo Ynares-Santiago—dissented. Interestingly, that second complaint was stymied despite the fact that it had the signatures of 73 congressmen, enough to send it to the Senate at the time. As for the first complaint, it soon died a natural death.

* * *

In yet another effort to rationalize the public's use of oil, the price of which has been skyrocketing in the world market, the Metro Manila Development Authority chaired by Bayani Fernando has finally decided to act on a matter that so many of us see every day. There are 3,000 buses that ply the streets of Metro Manila daily, most of them running with only a handful of passengers after the rush hours and consuming so much gasoline or diesel. The MMDA now wants to make sure these buses will only run when full.

This is great, as it would not only save us enormous fuel bills but also help clear the streets of traffic. The MMDA should also look into the possibility of creating taxi stands so that taxis don't roam the streets in search of passengers. This is the way it's done all over the world. In Singapore, one goes to the mall or hotel entrances to catch a taxi, after lining up, of course.

If we can enforce these reforms, maybe we can abandon the idea of making people use bicycles. That is difficult to enforce in a big way, given the lack of discipline of our drivers and the pollution and the heat in the metropolis.

Gift to a hometown

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HOMETOWN boys who make good pay back their places of origin in various ways: donating money for scholarships or municipal showcases, bringing in investments that provide jobs for town mates, or enshrining the family name in a church pew or school building.

For businessman Jolly Ting, who made his bundle in what might be euphemistically called the entertainment business, giving back to his hometown of Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, took the form of clean and potable water.

"Before we came in," recalls Calapan Waterworks Corp. general manager Alex Manto, "the water here was just undrinkable. You couldn't drink it, bathe with it or even wash clothes with it." He remembers wondering why an associate who accompanied him on his first visit to Calapan had brought with him an inordinate number of water bottles, until he tried to brush his teeth with the water gushing from the faucet. "I nearly threw up," says Manto. "It tasted salty and reeked of mud."

After years of neglect by the old water utility and the digging of private deep wells, salt water had begun to infiltrate Calapan's groundwater supply, resulting in brackish water flowing from faucets. So high was the salt water content that the townsfolk could not even get soap to lather for their baths or laundry. Residents who could afford it bought their water from private water haulers who tapped groundwater aquifers. But whether bought or tapped from the faucets, the quality and safety of the water supply remained doubtful, placing residents' health at risk since even the provincial hospital relied on trucked-in water for its supply.

* * *

INDEED, it's an irony and an injustice that a basic service, such as clean water, should remain inaccessible and expensive for the poor. Studies have shown that the poorest Filipinos pay more for basic services like water than those who are relatively better-off. This is because many impoverished communities don't have piped-in water, with families relying on private water haulers who charge more per liter of water without any guarantees on water safety.

Seeking a solution to the dire problem of Calapan's water supply, then Mindoro Gov. Rodolfo Valencia talked with Ting, chair of Jolliville Holdings Inc., to buy the waterworks franchise and rehabilitate the moribund water utility.

Fully aware of the need for a safe water system for his hometown, Ting acquired Calapan Waterworks from the previous owners in 1997. But if he thought his investment in improving the water system would earn him the gratitude of his town mates, Ting had another think coming. As Manto recalls: "We met with opposition from different parties, from city council members to NGOs." Among the more vociferous opposers were the water haulers who had been making quite a profit over the years, while some environmentalists raised alarms about the possible depletion of the groundwater supply with the drilling for new wells. In fact, the utility had to go to court twice to put an end to the continuous harassment of their workers and projects. Most protest actions subsided though after Calapan Waterworks secured a congressional franchise.

* * *

LAST year, with Oriental Mindoro Gov. Arnan Panaligan, who was Calapan mayor at the time Ting bought the waterworks, as guest of honor, Calapan Waterworks inaugurated its second well in Baranagay Tawiran, which with a previous well now supplies the needs of some 2,000 households in 23 barangays. Manto says they were also forced to dig for an entirely new network of pipes since the old ones were too unreliable to ensure the safety of the water supply.

Over the past six years, Calapan Waterworks has invested about P50 million in capital expenditure and infrastructure, mainly because, says Manto, "Mr. Ting insisted he wanted only the best quality." In fact, says the Waterworks GM, "we use Manila Water as our benchmark," ensuring that they use the same technology and materials as the Metro Manila concessionaire. Even more important, Calapan folk are now assured of a supply of safe and clean water, passing all the tests of the Department of Health and the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD). "This means that we are of the same quality as bottled water!" declares Manto proudly.

Also significant is the fact that even as their water quality has improved tremendously, Calapeños are paying less for their water. Where before water peddlers sold water at P5 per gallon, or an equivalent of P2,000 per cubic meter, the new rate for piped-in water is just P13 per cubic meter!

* * *

ON A VISIT to Calapan over the weekend, we passed by the new wells that now transmit the city's water supply. We found spanking new concrete sheds surrounded by landscaped gardens, with Manto explaining that "we wanted everything to look clean and spotless because we're dealing with water, which is a health product. We need our customers to feel confident about the safety of the water we pipe into our homes."

Indeed, the new wells are a stark contrast to the ones operated by the previous franchise holder, judging from photos hung on Calapan Waterworks offices. The old wells were housed in rusty ramshackle huts, amid muddy surroundings that indeed would not bode well about the quality of the water those wells produced.

Hometown boys who make good may choose to embark on ego- and image-boosting projects that may only make them popular but do little to serve their town mates. Calapan is lucky that one such "son" has chosen instead to channel his goodwill into an investment that took years before it began turning a (modest) profit, but which has produced immeasurable "returns" in terms of improved health and quality of life.

Beyond Manila

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

BEYOND THE Batangas cove were Lobo and Galban, where great traces of mines well known in other times remained but now bore little fruit. It was an area rich in cotton, palms and rice. The king had a cordage factory there that made black hemp processed in Cabite for the rigging of the galleons. Under this jurisdiction fell Calilaya or Tayabas extending to the Bondo Peninsula up to Mauban.

Beyond Batangas was the province of Camarines where the towns of Bondo, Passacao, Ibalon and Bula were found and where the galleon Encarnacion returning from Mexico was wrecked in 1649. There was a port and a shipyard in Sosocon or Bagatao where the big galleons were made. Albay even then was a big cove outside the channel with a tall volcanic mountain. Coming from Mexico, Mayon was visible to ships from afar because of the flames and smoke that it usually exhaled.

Along the range were springs of hot water and one that whatever fell inside—be it a piece of wood, bone or leaf—was converted to stone. Gov. Francisco Tello was gifted with a crab that had turned to stone. Caceres was founded by Gov. Francisco de Sande, the second governor of the Philippines. The Bishop had his cathedral and See in what was known as Nueva Caceres. Beside it was Naga whose coast gave shelter to the galleons and it was there that the San Diego anchored in 1650 coming from port.

After Caceres came the province of Camarines up to Paracale, where the natives mined for gold and other metals and a fine stone called iman, famous in antiquity as mentioned by Ptolemy. It was a big province and enjoyed beautiful plains, with forests and palms that yielded large amounts of oil for the royal factories in Cabite.

The capital of the province of Cagayan was the city of Nueva Segovia founded by Gov. Gonzalo Ronquillo, where the bishop had his seat and cathedral. It was situated on the banks of the great river of Cagayan, which was born in the mountains of Santor in la Pampanga and crossed nearly the whole province. The Spaniards called it Tajo, after the river in Spain.

Along the banks of the river was a Spanish infantry presidio constructed of *cal y canto* (lime and stone) in some parts and wood and gabion in others with four divisions of cavalry. ("Soil erosion is an ever present problem and gabions have proved to be a lasting solution around the world. The earliest known use of gabion-type structures was for bank protection along the Nile River during the era of the Pharaoh. In the subsequent 7,000 years since its initial use by the Egyptians, the gabion system has evolved from baskets of woven reeds to engineered containers manufactured from wire mesh. The lasting appeal of gabions lies in their inherent flexibility. Gabion structures yield to earth movement but maintain full efficiency and remain structurally sound.") Cagayan was the frontier of the Irayas, rebel inhabitants of the area who lived in the skirts of the tall sierras.

The farthest north of all the capes was the one called Engaño, a landscape tormented by the north winds. It was open and treacherous because of its great currents. It was here that the galleon S. Luis was wrecked in 1646, after failing to round the cape and take shelter in a port where two years earlier she had taken refuge upon returning from Mexico. In 1639, two galleons were anchored in this cape when a furious northern wind rose and in a few hours tore them both to pieces.

The province of Cagayan ended in Cape Boxeador where the province of Ilocos began. The whole province was fertile but unprotected from the tormenting northern winds. The forests yielded wax, red wood called Brasil in Europe, ebony and other much esteemed lumber. Her savannas were full of deer that were hunted for their pelts, which were brought to Japan and other parts. There were plenty of gold and carnelians, polished and carved with much care. These were not local but had been brought in olden days from India in exchange for gold.

Ilocos was considered the richest area and most populated outside Manila. It was founded in 1574 by Gov. Guido de Lavezares, who named it Villa Fernandina in honor of Philip II's son.

In 1623, a contingent went up the mountains to pacify the Igorots, and it took them seven days or three leagues a day to climb to the top. Along the way, they passed many forests of walnuts and wild nutmegs and later forests of pines. Finally they reached the top of the ridge where the Igorots had their principal settlement because of the rich mines of gold that they traded with the Ilocanos and Pangasinanes in exchange for supplies, food, clothes and other necessities. Besides gold, the province produced much rice and cotton from which thick blankets were woven that they called "de Ilocos" and used as sails for the galleons and uniforms for servants as well other curious textiles of many colors.

The next province was Pangasinan, which had much the same products. In the coast of this province was the port of Bolinao and Playa Honda, famous in Spain because of the victory of the Spanish armada against the Dutch.

Then came Pampanga with very fertile soil and abundant rice due to the many streams that bathed it. It supplied timber for the shipyards of Cabite which was very convenient for the Spaniards since its mountains were within the bay near the port and without risk from enemies or typhoons.

(Data from P. Francisco Colin, "Labor Evangelico," 1660 annotated by Fr. P. Pastells, 1904)

Sans magic

YOUNG BLOOD

Ingrid Abigail M. Villafuerte

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

DEAR Santa,

Do you remember that Christmas when you received an extra-long letter from me? It run through six pages of notebook paper, filled back-to-back. I had worked on that Christmas list for a year. I'm sure you remember it because I was probably the only kid crazy enough to spend a whole year writing to you.

Well, I found the letter again. Actually, Mama found it, laughed over it, showed it to Papa so that he could laugh over it, and then gave it to me after getting sick laughing over it. I was going to feel a little offended that they could laugh over a little girl's childish desires, but as I read it, I had to laugh myself.

After all, who in her right mind would want 101 colors of neon Pentel pen? I guess I would, after sitting with friends who always had more Pentel pens than I did. I also asked you for a ballpen that wrote in 200 colors because Mama and Papa always refused to buy me that fat, red ballpen that wrote in 30 colors. They just couldn't understand how cool it was to write one sentence in brown, light blue, yellow, lime green, pink and orange-red. Everyone was doing that, except me.

Maybe I felt that if I couldn't have the fat, red ballpen, the next best thing would be to have Fern Gully ballpens, Beauty and the Beast ballpens or Little Mermaid ballpens. Since none of the above could be found in the stores yet, I was sure to be the envy of everybody else because you would magically produce those ballpen sets especially for me, in addition to the no-sharpening pencils, erasers, jackets, key chains, autograph books and calendars that I also asked for.

I also asked you for 11 sets of jackstones because I was never really good at the game. Everyone else was beating me at jackstones, and I was even more hopeless at playing Chinese jackstones (which is why I also asked for six sets of Chinese jackstones). Maybe having 11 sets of jackstones and six sets of Chinese jackstones to practice on would solve the problem, I then thought.

I don't think it ever occurred to me that maybe I was spending too much time reading instead of playing jackstones. But I'm sure that thought crossed your mind when I asked for Baby-Sitters Club autographed photos, not to mention the long list of books that took up two pages. I'm surprised you didn't leave me a note and point me in the direction of the bookstore.

And what did you think of my even more difficult requests, like No. 28: "For Danjun to learn how to read," or No. 4: "High grades"?

Hey, but you have to give me some credit. At least I also asked for a whole box of SRA (No. 71) and a typewriter, not the electrical one, (No. 80), both of which would have helped me achieve request No. 34.

I read the rest of the list—which was filled with more requests of no-sharpening pencils, a mini trash can, three tubes of liquid paper, a couple of Game-and-Watch toys that weren't even in the market, 1,000 colors of Crayola, and my own telephone with phone number 6455161—with much amusement, but I also felt strangely nostalgic.

You want to know what possessed me to write you that letter that took me one whole year? It was because I thought you were magic. I thought that it was the only way to explain how you could make all the kids in the world happy by giving them new toys, and how you could give out all those toys in one night. Magic. So with a wave of your hand or a snap of your fingers, I thought you could give me all of the 124 items on my list.

Now, 13 years later, I find myself wishing that I still believed you were a real magical being that could make everything all right. Because now, I would ask you for things like world peace, an end to world hunger, a stop to corruption. I would ask you to find a way for neighbors to look out for each other, a way to make families happy despite all their problems, a way for friendships to survive through generations, a way for love to last an entire lifetime.

But perhaps it would be wrong for me to ask all that of you, Santa. Because, no offense meant, you're not the right person to ask. I should be asking God instead.

And maybe, I should also be asking myself how I can make make all that a reality, sans magic.

Ingrid Abigail M. Villafuerte, 22, graduated from the Ateneo de Manila University last March with a Bachelor of Arts degree, major in Communications.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS

Rep. Joey Salceda

A cure for looming crisis caused by doctors' migration

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

OUR country's problem with regard to the dwindling number of doctors, with many of them going abroad to work as nurses, just follows the global trend that has been going on for the past 100 years and has seen over 200 million people of different nationalities leaving their homelands to find a decent life elsewhere (UN statistics).

It is depleting the ranks of the medical professionals because the government has neglected the welfare of health workers, not to mention the country's problems with a doddering economy, massive graft and corruption in government, endless politicking and unstable peace and order.

Time will come when only a very few, overworked practicing doctors will be left in the country to care for the health needs of the Filipino people. By then, it will be too late to find a solution to the problem.

Filipinos in the lower economic brackets, especially those in the rural areas, are already suffering from the lack of doctors, nurses and other health care workers. I understand, even the bigger medical centers in Metro Manila are now feeling the pinch.

In the United States, the suggested ideal population-doctor ratio for satisfactory and sustained medical care is 5,000 to 1. There are about 750,000 licensed US doctors but only about 600,000 of them are practicing doctors taking care of the 300 million people in the United States. (The rest are in research, the academe, the military, etc.)

In the Philippines, there are reportedly more than 100,000 licensed doctors, but about one-fourth of them are not in active practice. With a population of 85 million people, this means the people-doctor ratio in the country is 20,000 to 1.

With the migration of so many MD-RNs (1,000 yearly?), coupled with the retirement, disability, or death of the "senior" doctors, expect the gap to widen. Expect a worse scenario with the rapidly declining enrollments in RP medical schools and the increasing number of doctors enrolling in nursing schools (6,000 lately, per DOH report).

The only viable solution to ensure that the Philippines will be able to maintain a decent health care service is to train graduate nurses, who are now in abundance, so that they deliver non-complicated, basic health care services that at present are being provided by family physicians, pediatricians, anesthesiologists (as anesthetist), internists and obstetricians, the same way it is being tried now in several American states.

For this, the nurses should take up an extra two years of postgraduate training. School expenses, including board and lodging, should be shouldered by the government. And yes, the Philippines should pay these nurses good salaries and give them privileges.

—CONRAD G. JAVIER, M.D., president, The Broadway Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; and former chief of staff, St. Michael Hospital (a University Hospital of Cleveland Health System, USA)

The time to act is now

I BEG to disagree with Fr. Joaquin Bernas' assessment in his July 18 column, in which he stated that the "time and circumstances (in our country) now are far from being ripe for extra-constitutional measures" and that the CBCP's "statement must be read against the background of how the bishops stood in 1986."

On the first statement, who is to say when the time and circumstances are or are not ripe for appropriate action? I hope Father Bernas did not mean this or made this statement on behalf of the whole Filipino nation. His declarations do not reflect the thoughts of those who believe otherwise.

Filipinos are at their highest level of unrest since the Marcos era of persecution. Everyone feels the "pinch" never heard of even during the martial law days. And time and circumstances are not ripe or are not there? The good father should not lead Filipinos into thinking the way their forebears did until a hundred years back, a kind of thinking that made them wait for more than three centuries before deciding to take up arms against Spanish oppression.

We have suffered enough, we cannot bear anymore and we need to act. The time is ripe and the circumstances are there for us to act, to take extra-constitutional measures. GMA's regime may not be exactly the same as that of Marcos' template of injustice, but it is equally corrupt and abusive, if not more.

For when do we act? When our people can't take it anymore and there is total chaos and tyranny? Don't we put out the fire at the first signs of smoke? Don't civilized nations quell tyranny and injustice before they begin to grow roots?

In 1986, the bishops took a firm stand for People Power because of the glaring acts of injustice being committed all over the country. How is that any different now? Isn't there massive poverty in the face of blatant corruption and wastefulness in government? Aren't there a lot of killings and human rights violations?

From my point of view, I think the prelates are taking an easy way out, doing a cop-out, a Pontius Pilate act; and making a hypocritical stance of neutrality by invoking the most abused principle of separation of church and state. Their hesitation now is beyond me.

**—TONY REYES,
treyes@grandecom.net**

If only all professionals paid properly their tax liabilities

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue commended five Manila doctors who voluntarily "filed their amended [income tax] returns for 2000 to 2004." ("5 Manila doctors to pay P450M more in taxes," PDI, 8/3/05) Will the rest of the medical practitioners throughout the country voluntarily do the same?

If only all professionals, most of whom do not issue receipts for the professional fees paid them by their clients, follow these five Manila doctors, the government will no longer need to implement the controversial expanded value-added tax. And neither will it need to resort to borrowings just to balance the yearly budgetary requirements of the national government.

Whoever those doctors are, may their tribe increase.

**—TRINIDAD ESTURAS PETEZA,
JP Rizal Street,
Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte**

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No liberation from debts

THE CURRENT power struggle between the administration and the opposition is—as far as we, the people, are concerned—an exercise in irrelevance. For no matter which side wins, we will still be governed by the debt conditions imposed upon us by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The Filipino national interest is not a consideration in the tug-of-war between the administration and opposition. The ones seeking to assert the national interest are minor players. If President Macapagal-Arroyo survives the contest, she will continue governing this country, as she has faithfully done since 2001, according to the WB-IMF debt conditions.

As in the past, compliance with these conditions will be closely monitored and graded by the WB-IMF attack dogs—Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. Her image managers will take care of selling her performance to the people, whose fate is to be burdened with more and more debts, as they continue sinking in poverty, injustice and indignity.

If Ms Arroyo does not survive, Vice President Noli de Castro or the opposition will take over Malacañang. Whoever takes over, the WB-IMF debt conditions will be enforced to the letter.

Let us have no illusion. In our country today, the sovereign mandate is the WB-IMF debt conditions, not the Constitution. All the bills certified urgent by Malacañang for Congress' approval are WB-IMF conditionalities, including that bill on the expanded value-added tax. Note that, like the holdover Cabinet members, the so-called Hyatt 10 are also batting for the immediate implementation of the EVAT. Note further that even our Supreme Court is now dependent on foreign loans and grants (the Supreme Court is now indebted to the WB, Asian Development Bank, USAID, AusAid, CIDA and the European Union).

This nation's crucial task is to liberate itself from the WB-IMF debt conditions.

**—AMADO GAT INCIONG,
Unit 301 Union Square
Condominium,
145 15th Avenue, Cubao, QC**

SMOG hovers over a densely populated area in Metro Manila PDI PHOTO

A worsening crisis being left out

WHAT happened to the Clean Air Act? Air pollution is still a real, big problem in our country. Alongside technological advancements, the threats to the health of our citizens have also increased through the years. For this reason, there is a need for us to look for new preventive methods or ways to combat air pollution, and this should be done right away to prevent more untimely deaths in our country.

According to the World Bank, there were 2,000 premature deaths and 9,000 cases of chronic bronchitis in 2002, which were primarily caused by air pollution. This surge in the number of pulmonary-related cases explains why a total of $400 million is spent annually by our government for medical treatment.

The increasing number of vehicles is aggravating this worsening crisis. Most of air pollution comes in the form of carbon monoxide from vehicles that are poorly maintained.

Republic Act 8749, or The Clean Air Act of 1999, is considered as the government's answer to the worsening problem of pollution which affects adversely not only the environment and public health but also the people's productivity, thus worsening their living conditions.

For these reasons, air pollution should not be taken for granted because it can hurt in so many ways and could even hasten a family's downward spiral toward poverty.

But laws, without proper implementation, are a waste. Though we recognize our duties and responsibilities as citizens of this country in the implementation of laws, we must also look to "our" government's role even just in minimizing this worsening problem. Cooperation is needed between the government and the citizens if we must improve the quality of the air we breathe.

We should address the problem of air pollution as one of our priority concerns.

**—LEO CHRISTOPHER DE VERA,
kitdevera@yahoo.com**

No such P277-million loan and charges

WE respectfully refer to the news item (PDI, 8/12/05) about our being charged, along with Gen. Lisandro Abadia, before the Sandiganbayan in connection with the allegedly anomalous loan of P277 million.

1. No such charge has been filed against us before the Sandigabayan.

2. The total loan was P80 million, not P277 million. The corporate guarantee of P197 million was never availed of by Marilaque Land Inc. (MLI).

3. The board, of which we were members at that time, approved the short-term loan with more than adequate safeguards favoring the AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (AFPRSBS)—a real estate mortgage worth twice the amount of the loan, a 35-percent interest rate per annum, and an acceleration clause which made the loan due and demandable in case of default.

4. The government suffered no loss. The P80 million was a short-term loan. MLI settled the P80 million loan through a *dacion en pago* in 2001 and 2002, with properties worth P134 miilion (not P113 million), thus delivering for the AFPRSBS a profit of more than P50 million.

5. The report that the loan was not approved by the secretary of national defense (SND) is incorrect. The investments of the AFPRSBS are contained in its five-year rolling plan, the yearly implementation of which is reviewed by the SND during the semestral AFP Program Review and Analysis. The SND, in the exercise of his oversight authority, pursuant to PD 361, as amended, approves the five-year investment plan but not the individual investment projects or the day-to-day fund placements. This has been the established procedure which allowed the fund to grow from a P200-million seed capital in 1973 to about P12 billion in 1997.

6. The executive committee (ExCom) did not categorically recommend the disapproval of the loan. Instead, it elevated the loan proposal to the board of trustees "for final deliberation"—a departure from the ExCom's standing practice procedure of denying or disapproving loan proposals outright at its level. This ambivalence of the ExCom could have stemmed from its findings that MLI "has good prospects."

7. This action of the board was purely a strategic business decision with only the best interest of the AFPRSBS and the Soldiers' Fund in mind. It was not influenced in any manner by Abadia who retired in 1993 and was not in any position to influence the members of the board.

8. A similar complaint was thoroughly investigated in March 1999. It was dismissed on Oct. 12, 1999 by the Ombudsman because there was absolutely no showing of any injury or damage to the AFPRSBS in particular, and the government in general. In October 2004, however, the case was revived; this time, Abadia was impleaded.

—GEN. ARNULFO G. ACEDERA (ret.), GEN. CLEMENTE P. MARIANO (ret.), VICE ADM EDUARDO MA. R. SANTOS (ret.), VICE ADM LUISITO F. FERNANDEZ (ret.), LT. GEN. WILLIAM K. HOTCHKISS II (ret.), REAR ADM OCTAVIUS S. DAUZ (ret.), CMS JOEL T. TROMPETA (ret.)

IT was the Office of the Special Prosecutor which provided the document showing the charges against the retired generals and claimed they had been filed before the Sandiganbayan. After reading this letter, I called Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo who said the charges are yet to be filed. It was not my intention to besmirch the honor and reputation of the retired generals.

**—NELSON F. FLORES,
PDI reporter**

Youth ready to help in SEA Games

THE FILIPINO youth may not be one with President Macapagal-Arroyo when it comes to matters of governance and politics, but we are one with her in her call for the successful staging of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games). The preparations currently being undertaken by the Philippine SEAGames Organizing Committee (Philsoc) are moving painstakingly slow; we call on Roberto Pagdanganan and Danding Cojuangco to hasten the preparations for the Games lest we lose face before our regional neighbors.

A lot of students like me are willing to help the Philsoc in ensuring the success of the Games. We want to volunteer, but the timeframe for the SEAG is in conflict with our classes. It would help if the SEA Games period is declared a school holiday; this way, we can devote our efforts to volunteer work without worrying about absences or failures. Our only desire is to help the country successfully host this important regional event.

We are aware of the efforts of the National Youth Commission to have our request granted. We hope Ms Arroyo and the Philsoc act favorably on it. For a successful SEA Games.

**—KIT UNDUG,
kwechkwech@gmail.com**

INQBOX

In the wake of higher oil prices, in what specific ways can you help conserve energy?

have a meeting with d kids at home, assign them as light guards. Main duty: 2 Put off lights when not in use.
—Roland vingno, 41, laguna

Lessen the time hour frame of four hours to two hours of viewing telenovela series of prime time televisions.
—PATRIA CORPUZ, 61, imus, cavite

Only once a week d aircon wil be on during night time.
—romel amihan, 29, bacolod city

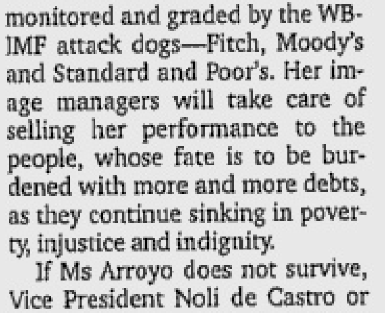
Simple lang naman 2 conserve energy, all we need are: 1. SELF-DISCIPLINE! 2. SIMPLE LIVING. Kaya natin to!!!
—Dennis Vincent Salubo, 20, Malaybalay City

By drastically changing our way of life. Use firewood, walk to work, live like a hermit!
—Jennilyn Zulueta, 37, san fernando city

LESS USE of APLIANCES with HIGH ENERGY CONSUMPTION like AIR-CONDITIONERS; TURN OFF UNECESARY LIGHTS
—JAMES Philip narisma, 39, iloilo city

to help c0nserve energy, i walk frm my haus 2 w0rkplace, its a way of saving m0ney 2!
—marie fe melch0r, 25, valencia city

Turn off lights or UNPLUG electrical APPLIANCES when NOT NEEDED, HANDWASH CLOTHS not WASHING machine, REDUCE WATTAGE of BULBS



Mag-bike, car pool, o sumakay ng kalabau! he-he!

—SUNDAY M. ALCOBER, 28, ormoc city

to conserve energy: I'd rather take a bus or a shuttle service instead of using my car in goin to work to conserve energy.
—jouie calma, 32, parañaque city

by endorsing bicycles!
—tiara mejos, 18, davao city

Minimize Tv viewing, had enuf trash already.
news dat matter are in d PDI. also, use public transport. Simple & Effective!
—Edgardo casa, 53, panabo city

i can help conserve by managing my resources properly by switching off lights & other appliances wen not in use.
—Nigel Bolanio, 18, Cagayan de Oro City

Balik na lang tayo sa PAGGAMIT ng ULING at PAMAYPAY.. at IBALIK na lang yung DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME (DST).
—nick rosal, 35, olongapo city

better ask world bank 4 moratorium of our debts until crude oil prices stake down at its minimum level.
—mando rugas, 43, davao city

Build more Walkways and Bike Lanes! Biking is fun, doesn't cause air pollution, and gets you to farther places.. Improves our health pa!
—Kevin Sanchez, manila

i can conserve energy by playing computer games in our haus just once a week, instead if playing frequently.
—james roy pascual, 15, digos city

Think of saving this way: what if u had to carry home all the water u needed everyday- in jars, or conserve energy by using and reviving the rain barrel. and check the weather forecast before watering plants.
—ronald ramos, urdaneta city

i will cook rice gud 4 altanghap (almusal, tanghali, hapunan), tipid na sa kuryente, pati sa pagod. Bukas ilaw & elec fan only if really needed.
—gigi sicat, muntinlupa cty

Lets all go back 2 basics: use coal, bicycles; just walk; limit use of electric appliances; take public conveyances.
—Lorenz NAMALATA, CDO, cavite city

Change lifestyle: read more, watch Tv less; walk more, Drive less; wake up early, less late night activities.
—joseph ayo, 34, parañaque

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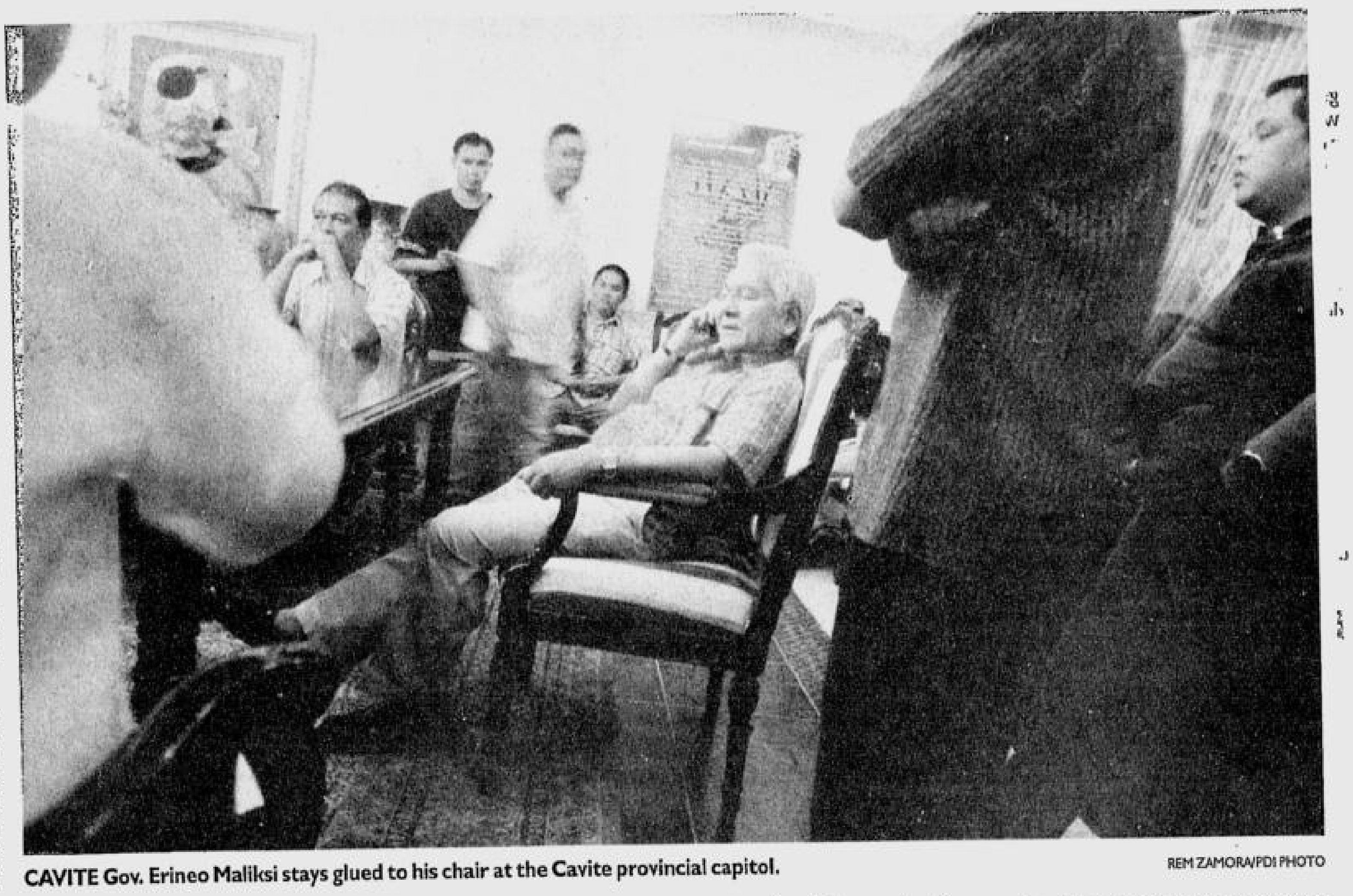
Maliksi stands his ground in Cavite

TRECE MARTIRES CITY—Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla's most anticipated first day in the capitol as acting governor turned into a rather forgettable moment as 3,000 followers of suspended Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi played killjoy.


CAVITE Gov. Erineo Maliksi stays glued to his chair at the Cavite provincial capitol.

REM ZAMORA/PDI PHOTO

Remulla, who once told the INQUIRER that being the Cavite governor was his ultimate ambition, decided not to proceed to the scheduled flag-raising ceremonies at the capitol as Maliksi's followers continued to camp out at the grounds.

Tension mounted at the capitol building as Maliksi's supporters barricaded its three entrance doors and barred everyone, including journalists and capitol employees, from entering the premises.

Police personnel were also blocked by the pro-Maliksi protesters led by the Barangay and Community Alternative Leaders (Bacal).

Stalwarts of the Liberal Party in the House of Representatives have thrown their support behind beleaguered Cavite Gov. Erineo "Ayong" Maliksi even as they denounced the Ombudsman for "grave abuse of discretion" in meting out a six-month suspension on their party-mate.

Deputy Speaker and Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Nonoy" Aquino III, said the undue haste in the execution of the six-month suspension order slapped on Maliksi is appalling and the LP denounces this apparent grave abuse of discretion on the part of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Aquino, secretary general of LP, described Maliksi's suspension as "an obvious political harassment" by the administration to get even with members of the LP who have joined the call for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo in the wake of the "Hello … Garci" and *jueteng payola* scandals.

Cavite Rep. Joseph Emilio Abaya said the harassment experienced by Maliksi in the hands of the Ombudsman will not be taken by the LP sitting down.

"Governor Maliksi, even if he joined the Liberal Party in calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo for her inability to govern, still deserves the right to due process as guaranteed in our Constitution," Abaya said.

Elmer Tayo, Bacal vice president, said people started to position themselves in front of the capitol on Sunday after receiving information that several units of the military and the Calabarzon regional police office were deployed in the area to physically remove the embattled governor from his office.

He said they were also told that Remulla's camp would try to force themselves into the capitol.

Maliksi's followers have been holding a vigil at the capitol grounds since Wednesday.

"We will not allow power-hungry politicians to take out the duly elected governor of Cavite. There is no other governor here than Governor Maliksi," Tayo told the crowd.

Maliksi said he did not issue any order to his followers to block people entering the capitol premises.

"I really don't want the capitol to be affected by this. But the people want to make sure that I am protected. They know that (my enemies) will do anything to remove me here. I guess the people will not allow further injustice to them," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he has no plans of leaving the capitol until the Ombudsman resolved the motion for reconsideration that he had filed before the anti-graft body.

He said he had also filed a temporary restraining order at the Court of Appeals.

"But whatever the higher courts decide, I will respect it. But they should not make me heed a bogus and patently illegal order," he said.

Maliksi, who was ordered suspended by the Ombudsman last week, has holed himself up inside the governor's office since Tuesday. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Army seizes NPA camp

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The military reported seizing a large New People's Army camp at the mountain border of Pampanga and Zambales on Sunday. The camp, comprised of several huts that could accommodate more than 100 people, fell into the hands of the Army's 71st and 24th infantry battalions after heavy fighting. Lt. Col. Preme Monta, public information chief of the military's Northern Luzon Command, said the rebel camp, 2 km west of the Aeta village of Kamias in Porac, Pampanga, had long existed but its location was only pinpointed recently by civilian sources. A soldier was wounded in the fight. The rebels withdrew toward Villa Maria, also in Porac.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Farmer beheads brod

IBA, Zambales—A 32-year-old farmer chopped off the head of his younger brother during a quarrel in their house at Sitio Tambac in Barangay Palanginan here on Sunday. Using a bolo, Emmanuel Tolentino struck his brother Rolando, 28, several times in the body, including the fatal one that felled the latter's neck, during the fight after a drinking spree, Senior Insp. Remigio Magno, town police chief, said. The hacking was witnessed by family members, including their father who tried to intervene but to no avail. The suspect surrendered to the police. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Aparri gets weather radar

MAS HANDA NA TAYO NGAYON!

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Aparri, Cagayan's northern town, is the first in the country to have an upgraded weather tracking radar. Dr. Graciano Yumul, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration officer in charge, said the upgraded radar, worth P17 million, can detect tropical cyclones and other weather disturbances. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Laguna dad shot dead

STA. ROSA CITY—A councilor of this city, who was a staunch ally of slain Mayor Leon Arcillas, was shot dead by two unidentified armed men in front of his house along the national highway in Barangay Balibago on Saturday morning. Supt. Pastor de Guzman, Sta. Rosa police chief, said victim Artemio Gomez Jr., 57, a retired police captain, died from two bullet wounds in the head. The victim's brother, Rene, 43, was also shot by the suspects after he tried to shield the councilor from the attackers. He was brought to the nearby Biñan Doctors' Hospital. The gunmen, together with a male and female suspect, fled. Senior Supt. Rodolfo Magtibay, operations chief of the Calabarzon police, said he had ordered an investigation of the killing.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Kidnap gang member killed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Suspected kidnapper Eduardo Fernandez tried to escape from his police captors in San Pablo City on Friday but the gun that he tried to snatch went off, fatally hitting him in the chest. Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, Calabarzon police chief, said Fernandez was dead on arrival at the San Pablo City Medical Center. Fernandez was facing a string of kidnapping, robbery and murder charges in Laguna and Quezon provinces as a member of the notorious Andrade-Fernandez kidnap-for-ransom syndicate. He said the group posed as members of the New People's Army.
Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Crowning of Virgin image

THE IMAGE of the Blessed Virgen de la Escalera will be enthroned and crowned on Sept. 4 at 4 p.m. during the concelebrated Mass to be officiated by Msgr. Ramon Arguelles, archbishop of Batangas, at the St. Francis Xavier Church in Nasugbu, Batangas, according to a news release. A procession will follow after the church rites. Town officials, led by Mayor Antonio Barcelon, will lead the parishioners and different church organizations. The project was conceptualized and envisioned by Dr. Alberto Wonchal, a native of Nasugbu through the initiative of production designer Rei Nicolas and supported by Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, the parish priest of St. Francis Xavier Church.

1ST IN REGION HISTORY

Smooth transition of leaders planned in ARMM

COTABATO CITY—Outgoing Gov. Parouk Hussin of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and incoming Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan have formed their respective transition committees that will facilitate a smooth and peaceful turnover of leadership on Sept. 30.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to grace the turnover rites to be held at the ARMM's Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Center here.

Both Hussin and Ampatuan had a short meeting in Manila last week where the transition was discussed, according to Ishak Mastura, ARMM trade and industry secretary under Hussin's leadership.

"They agreed to have a symbolic turnover of leadership," Mastura told reporters.

Previous ARMM governors whose terms of office had ended after a new governor had been elected did not formally hand over the leadership.

Hussin, to be named as Philippine ambassador to the Middle East, will step down as the fourth ARMM chief executive on Sept. 30.

Mastura, one of the legal counsels and political advisers of the incoming governor, said legal experts, researchers and auditors will compose the transition committees.

Ampatuan, in a statement, said he will focus on streamlining the bureaucracy in an attempt to develop an effective delivery of basic services of the ARMM constituents.

Ampatuan, a Maguindanaoan, won the Aug. 8 regional elections with his running mate, Ansadruddin Adiong, a Maranao.

Hussin, a member of the Moro National Liberation Front central committee, has filed his candidacy for the reelection but later withdrew from the race.

Mastura said the symbolic turnover of leadership will give the new regional governor a fresh start in ARMM governance.

Ampatuan has already formed a selection committee that would choose new Cabinet members that would help him effectively run the affairs of the regional government.

The 37-year-old governor-elect vowed to serve the region with transparency and would involve all sectors, including his political rivals.

Topping his priorities is the problem of ARMM teachers with the Government Service Insurance System where the teachers' contributions remained unremitted to the government insurance firm. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Oil search in Tañon Strait unauthorized, says exec

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE OIL exploration being done by two foreign firms in Tañon Strait, a protected seascape off Negros and Cebu, has no clearance from the Protected Areas Management Council in the region, an environment official said yesterday.

The four-stage exploration, which started in May, was conducted without the approval of the protected areas management board, a requirement for explorations in protected areas, said Theresa Mundita Lim, Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau executive director.

A report from the PAWB in Central Visayas revealed that the PAMB was not even convened to discuss the joint exploration by Japan Exploration Corp. and the Forum Energy Corp.

"The regional office said the PAMB there is not operational, that it has not been convened for the Tañon Strait exploration because it was hard to get the people together," Lim said.

"If it has no approval from the PAMB, then there's a violation … I'm surprised … I don't know how it happened, why this proceeded. A report should have been submitted to us," she said.

Tañon Strait, which was declared a protected seascape and landscape in May 1998, is classified as an "extremely high critical biodiversity" area.

The strait, host to some rare species of dolphins and other cetaceans, is the first protected seascape that was opened for exploration by the Department of Energy, Lim said.

The application for exploration should go through the PAMB to ensure that the activity will be consistent with the protected area management plan.

Lim said the regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural resources could issue a clearance for exploration in a protected area if the PAMB was not convened.

If the firms find rich reserves that they want to develop, they would have to submit an environmental impact assessment report to the DENR, which would decide whether the project would not threaten the environment.

The final approval for the development of protected areas would come from Congress.

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New Benguet roads urged to stop marijuana farming

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The province can graduate as a member of Club 20, the name given to the country's poorest provinces, if the government would seriously consider two key programs to help alleviate poverty, Benguet Rep. Samuel Dangwa said here.

Dangwa said the programs—construction of farm-to-market roads and the creation of a body to protect local vegetables from imports—would boost the farmers' productive confidence and deter them from planting marijuana as an alternate source of income.

Saying that the province was no longer the country's marijuana capital, Dangwa said the construction of farm-to-market roads would lead to the eradication of remaining marijuana plantations.

Hardships

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Dangwa said "the immediate provision of these roads would lessen the hardships in bringing the farmers' harvests to the market and dissuade them from planting marijuana."

He reminded the President of her commitment to fund the completion of roads in Kapangan town and cable cars in Tinglayan, Kalinga that would penetrate marijuana fields.

Aware of reduced tariffs under free trade, Dangwa also asked Ms Arroyo to form a pest risk analysis (PRA) administrative body that would subject imported vegetables to disease and sanitation tests before being allowed to be traded in the local market.

Noting that the request was urgent, he said the PRA body must be composed of experts from the Bureau of Plant Industry and Benguet State University here, and representatives of Benguet farmers' organizations.

He urged Ms Arroyo to exempt potatoes, cabbages and carrots from free trade agreements that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry had forged with other countries.

Main livelihood

"Vegetable farming remains as the main source of livelihood of the farmers and allowing the entry of the three products without restriction would definitely kill the local industry," he said.

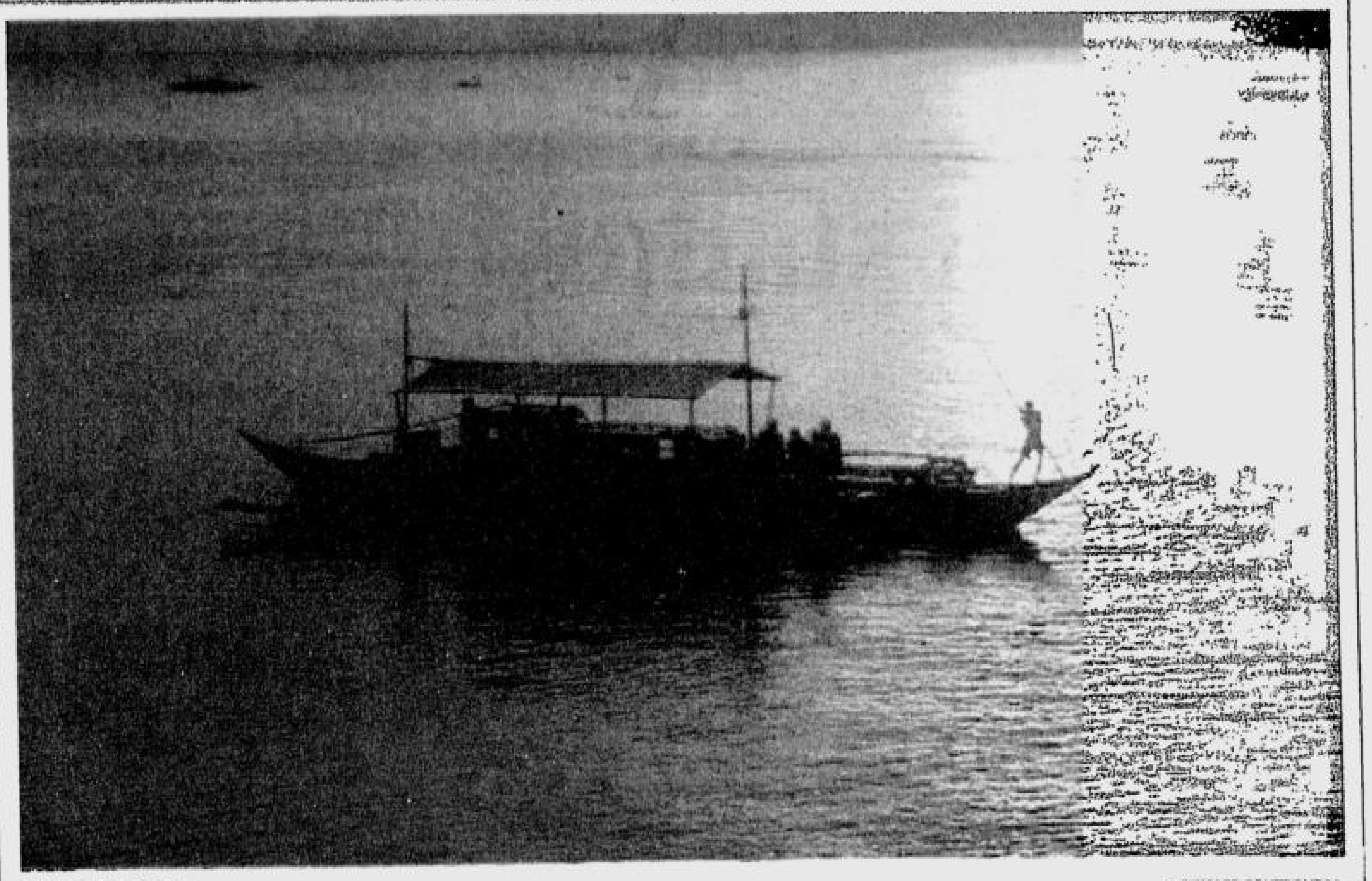
Ms Arroyo earlier directed the Department of Public Works and Highways to realign the P30 million in savings from the Marcos Highway rehabilitation project to fund the construction of the Kapangan roads and the Tinglayan cable cars.

But the DPWH said the realignment would not be possible since the money had already been earmarked for the construction of a flyover at the Baguio General Hospital rotunda in Baguio City.

Dangwa said the President could look for other fund sources since the people of Kapangan and Tinglayan were expecting her administration to fulfill her commitment to the projects.

He said farm-to-market roads are also badly needed in other parts of the province as a way of promoting untapped scenic spots and boost local tourism.

He cited the Asin Hot Springs in Tuba town. Tourists have to pass through two tunnels in order to reach the place.



YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR

KIDDIE RIDE
Children enjoy a banca ride in Alona Beach on Panglao Island in Bohol province.

UPLB coalition demands trial of chancellor

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—A multisectoral coalition in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) will hold a protest rally inside the campus today to demand that incumbent Chancellor Wilfredo David be put to jail, instead of getting reappointed for a third term, for his alleged various offenses against the faculty and the employees.

David, according to a statement furnished the INQUIRER, has a long list of "various criminal and administrative cases against him and the shocking mass exodus of 466 faculty members from years 2000 to 2005."

The statement said the cases are undergoing preliminary investigation at the Office of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Environment Ombudsman for grave misconduct and violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act (RA 3019).

An employee of the Office of the Chancellor told the INQUIRER that David was on his way to Manila to prepare for his travel abroad.

Josephine Bo, head of publication in the office, said she did not know of any statement made by any group.

She also questioned the credibility of those who formed the coalition. She, however, did not say if she knew any of the members of the group.

The group, calling itself the "No Third Term Coalition," said it had more than 1,500 members, many of whom are university alumni and faculty members.

It listed several other "arbitrary and unsound decisions" committed by the chancellor like the controversial one-semester appointment of temporary faculty members, which was in violation of the UP Code, his own memorandum and the memorandum of then UP Vice President Maria Serena Diokno.

The statement, approved by Prof. Severino Cuevas, one of the coalition leaders, also accused David of insubordination to then UP President Francisco Nemenzo for a plan to cut a controversial century-old dao tree.

Nemenzo earlier ordered David to comply with then environment secretary Elisea Gozun's order to refrain from cutting the dao tree.

The protesting group also accused David, who is concurrent president of the UPLB Foundation Inc., of "illegally dismissing all its employees, a decision which resulted in financial losses to UPLB-FI as the NLRC-DOLE ordered the payment of back wages."

"While the incumbent chancellor may argue that his decision to replace the key administrative personnel was sanctioned by the Board of Regents, he failed to properly advise the BOR of the financial implications of his decisions. This will cost UPLB an estimated P335,000," the coalition said.

It further alleged that David was utterly ignorant of the law by appointing a horticulturist as the university landscape architect, contrary to Republic Act 9053.

The group claimed that David completely ignored the expert advice of the country's sole urban forester, from his own College of Forestry and Natural Resources, to prune the controversial dao tree to address public safety concerns.

UPLB alumnus Gil Aller told the INQUIRER that the multi-sectoral coalition, which is gaining membership daily, would continue its regular protest action inside the campus if David was reappointed. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Tuesday, August 23, 2005

Laura Jean
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Saturday_8pm
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ABC

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teledyaryo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr Bean	Naruto	Opids	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Green Rose	Oh! Feel Young	Bora			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championship				Sentro	Strange But True	Matanik Na Kalaban				Big News	Three Blind Dates		ESPN Golf: Senior PGA Championships	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Hotelier	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Attic Cat	Bahay Mo Ba 'To?			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Simple Life 2		For Love Or Money 3				Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		Nuts	Outrageous	Chili Factor	King Of Adventure		IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superfine Tv Shopping		Bahay Pinoy	
Studio 23								Get Backers	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	The Rebel Billionaire	Angel		Smallville		News Central	Oprah		The Men's Room
MTV Philippines			MTV Pop Inc			Hangin Out at MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL						Top Of The Pops					
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Fiesta	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten			Mobile MYX Top Picks	My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				LPGA Golf				Pool/Snooker Rack 'Em Up 4		ATP Masters Series		Sportscenter Asia	Pro Billiards '05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'ships S'finals		Pool/Snooker Premier Snooker League '04 Wales				Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports	TV Shopping	FIVB Montreux '05 Volley Masters Finals					Boxing: Hosino vs. Monte					NBA XL	Sports Desk	Davis Cup 2nd Round '05 C'finals Day2				2005 EBC	
Sports Plus								World's Greatest Auto Shows		Monster Jam	Tour De France	This Is The PGA Tour		GFS Marketplace Highlights		Celebrity Poker Tournament			
Cinemax		The Naked Jungle			Obsessed			Dead Heat			Lady Killer			Cape Fear				Berserker: Hell's Warrior (11:05PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Regenesis		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Regenesis		Snow White			Agency II (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-lakative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse			Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers				
Discovery Channel						The Ultimate Guide				Rides		Human Discovery		Wild Discovery				Science Mysteries	
National Geographic		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia					Hayden Turner's Wildlife Challenge			About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation		The Mafia	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	SD Gundam Force	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Codename: Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers
Nickelodeon		Rugrats															The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Passion For Dessert	Second Look		Look For Less	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares		Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Ed				House		Friends	Ed
AXN		David Blaine Street Magic		David Blaine Magic Man		Now See This	Now See This	The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Ripley's Believe It or Not		CSI: NY (Season I)				AXN Shakedown	
JackTV	Kid Notorious	Just For Laughs	Beat The Geeks	WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		X-Play	Banzai	Mad TV		Trigger Happy TV	Primetime Glick	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Stripperella	Family Guy	Wwe Heat	
ETC		Good Morning Miami	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	JKX	Simple Life	One Tree Hill		For Love Or Money		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO	Old School (2:35PM)			A Mighty Wind (4:10PM)			Gridlock'd (5:45 PM)				Half Past Dead (7:25PM)			Deadwood 01: Deadwood		Deadwood 02: Deep Water		Tommy Boy (10:55PM)	
Star Movies		Les Miserables				Father Of The Bride Part II				Grosse Pointe Blank (7:05 PM)				Laws Of Attraction			Drumline (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Joey Boy Munti				Pakisabi Na Lang Na Mahal Ko Sya				Singsing Ni Lola				Pinagbiyak Na Bunga				Videoke King	
EWTN	Angels Of God	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Saints For The Third Millenium: St. Therese Of Lisieux	Faith Factory B	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Pope John Paul's Legacy To The Family	Pope Pius XII	The Journey Home		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Swear To God	The Sacraments Through The Ages	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Web Of Faith	

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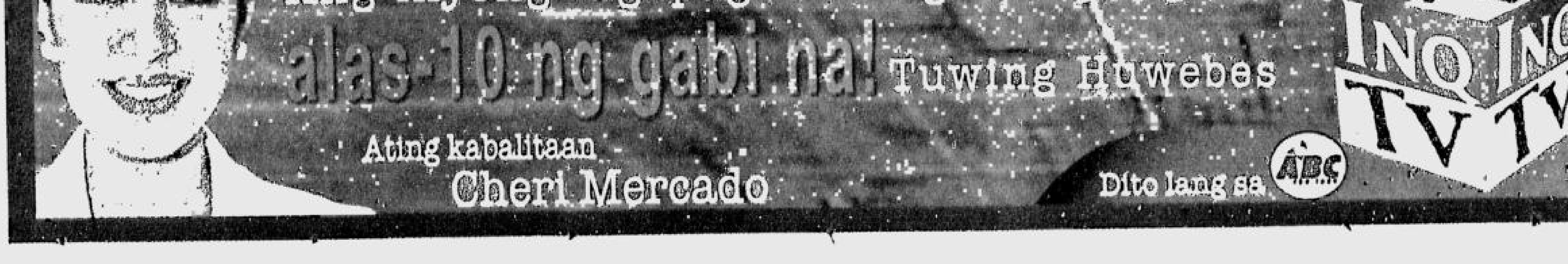

Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

TRIAL BY ERROR

(Wow, Mali!)

Where is the opposition's haphazard political adventure going to take the nation?

We have seen the effort to smear the President of the Republic, cripple her presidency and force her to resign take many turns in the past few months. Those turns were dictated by the shortsightedness of the oppposition.

Consider the facts:

1. The opposition earlier dismissed impeachment as a strategy and concentrated on mounting insurrection in the streets. Opposition spokesmen Francis Escudero and Ronaldo Zamora laughed off the impeachment complaint of lawyer Oliver Lozano and declared they would never join the move.

2. The opposition's street rallies were a cacophony of discordant voices: some clamored for a "caretaker government," others for a "revolutionary junta," and still others for a "revolutionary transition council." The communists and leftists and the rightists marched in tandem, but avoided being seen onstage with each other. The one million crowd promised by opposition propagandists never materialized. The largest they mobilized was 35,000.

3. When the attempted street insurrection failed, the opposition concentrated on hearing the so-called Garci tapes. To be transparent, the majority in the House of Representatives joined the minority's clamor to hear the tapes. The hearings were much ado over nothing.

4, When that became obvious, the opposition scrambled to join the impeachment process. One month after the Lozano impeachment complaint was lodged, it filed its own "amended complaint" and demanded that the charge take precedence over the earlier one. But the "amended complaint" is actually an entirely new and separate complaint disguised as an amendment.

5. As four distinguished former presidents of the Philippine Bar Association have pointed out, however, the Philippine Constitution does not allow more than one impeachment complaint against the same official within one year.

6. In the preliminary debates, the opposition also moved tenaciously to junk the draft rules of the current 13th Congress and use the rules of the 11th Congress, which impeached Joseph Estrada. The majority, once more, accommodated the oppposition. But while the draft rules of the 13th Congress allowed amendment of the original complaint before its inclusion in the Order of Business, the rules of the 11th Congress did not.

7. Having junked the draft rules that allowed for amendment, the opposition closed the door to the legality of its "amended complaint." In the preliminary debates at the House Committee on Justice, the minority tried to cover up its blunder by pigheadedly trying to exclude the Lozano complaint in favor of its own "amended complaint." The "amendments" were rejected by Lozano himself.

8. Should the House Justice Committee decide that the Lozano complaint take precedence over the later complaint, it will be because that is what the impeachment rules dictate the very same rules the opposition preferred.

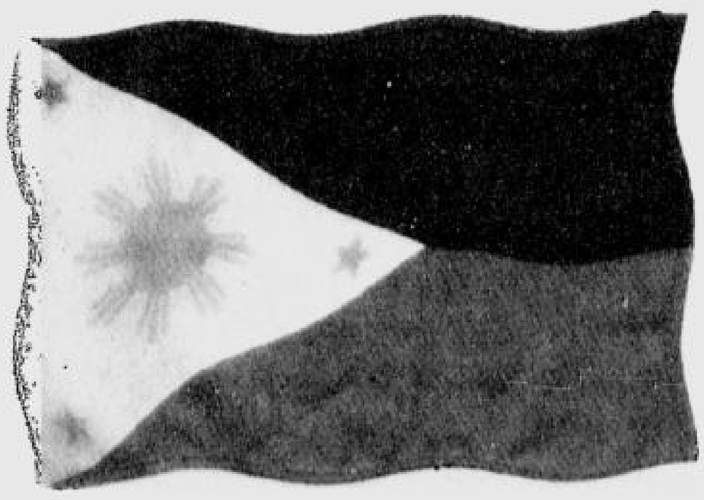
9. Meanwhile, the members of the opposition tripped over each other. At one point, they announced they had the 79 signatures—a flagrant lie. Having defaulted in securing the requisite 79 signatures at the time the "amended complaint" was filed, they want the acceptance of the "creeping impeachment," or collation of signatures by installment, which is not allowed by the rules.

In a word, the opposition attempted to impeach President Arroyo on a trial-by-error basis: flitting from one strategy to the next, shopping from one forum to the other.

If the opposition now finds this whole impeachment adventure in danger of collapsing, it will be because of its own shortcomings. Victory hardly follows from incompetence.

This comedy of errors is costing the country greatly. We should now direct our energies toward doing the truly meaningful things: creating jobs, fighting terrorism, improving our hospitals, schools, agriculture, and basic infrastructure, and finding immediate practical solutions to high prices or the oil crisis, which is endangering the Philippines and all the oil-importing nations of the world.

Let's unite now and lift up the country instead of bringing it down.



FILIPINOS FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

No to wildlife trade

By Blanche S. Rivera

WILDLIFE enforcement officers (WEOs) are poised to arrest illegal traders of wild animals in Metro Manila where there is a ready market for hobbyists.

The Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Customs is set to revive the designation of WEOs to assist the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in its crackdown on the forbidden trade. Some of these animals are on the list of endangered species.

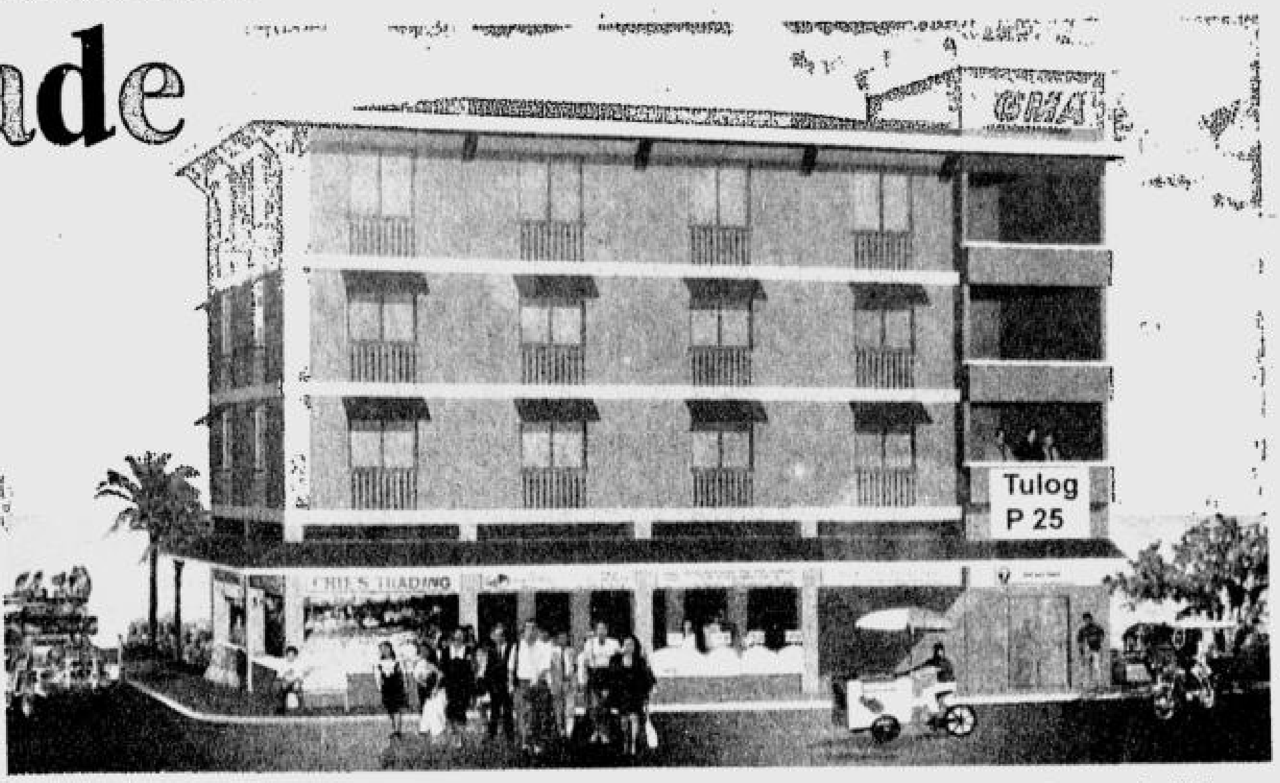
"Metro Manila is the major destination of wildlife from the provinces and is recognized as a center of the illegal wildlife trade," the DENR said in a statement. Law enforcers have identified Cartimar market in Pasay City and Aranque market in Manila as the priority surveillance areas in Metro Manila.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro said the most common wildlife sold to hobbyists were mynahs and cockatoos, monitor lizards, spotted deer, snakes, tortoises and *baboy-damo* or wild boar.

The animals are hunted for wildlife meat and as delicacies, pets, sources of traditional medicine, for display in zoos, and other commercial purposes.

The provinces of Palawan, Isabela, Cagayan, Quezon, Laguna, and some parts of Mindanao are the usual sources of these animals which are later smuggled to Metro Manila. Other exotic animals are imported from Thailand and Malaysia.

The WEOs would also check on animal owners whose pets had not been registered with the DENR during the two-year amnesty period it set that ended on March 7. De Castro said the DENR lowered the registration fee of P5,000 to P50 per animal to encourage owners to register their pets.



THE FOUR-STORY building, one of several to rise in the Metro, is intended for vendors and transients, and will also house dormitories and sellers' booths.

MMDA GRAPHIC DESIGN

A CALL TO SOBRIETY

Amidst the allegations of misconduct hurled without restraint against the President, it is important to put into perspective and context the current impeachment proceedings in Congress in order that their eventual resolution, whatever the outcome, will not further damage our already delicate economic and political stability to the detriment of the nation now and in the immediate future. Regretfully, most of the actors in the current controversy appear to have at heart not the welfare of our people but their own personal agendas, caring nothing for the hardships suffered by the general public.

While the 1987 Constitution provides for the method of removal by impeachment of certain erring officials, it has at the same time **restricted** this process so that it would not be used to harass these officials or worse, bully them into acting against the country's interests.

Anyone watching the impeachment proceedings in Congress will readily see the persistent efforts by certain sectors of Congress to ignore the **Constitutional restrictions** against the initiation of a second and even a third impeachment proceeding against an impeachable official like the President. They are attempting to subvert the law in the guise of an Amended Complaint for impeachment, which lamely reiterates the original complaint filed by Atty. Oliver Lozano to conceal the fact that it is an **entirely new complaint** on separate grounds. The Constitution is very clear. It states that **"no impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year"** [Article XI, Section 3 (5)]. Our Supreme Court, interpreting this provision in the case of *Francisco vs. House of Representatives*, said: "x x x **it is without a doubt that the term "to initiate" refers to the filing of the impeachment complaint coupled with Congress' taking initial action of said complaint."** The Supreme Court stressed that **"having concluded that the initiation takes place by the act of filing and referral or endorsement of the impeachment complaint to the House Committee on Justice** x x x **the meaning of Section 3 (5) of Article XI becomes clear,"** that **"once an impeachment complaint has been initiated, another impeachment complaint may not be filed against the same official within a one year period."**

Under Article 8 of the New Civil Code, **"judicial decisions applying or interpreting the laws of the Constitution shall form a part of the legal system of the Philippines."** The foregoing interpretation by the Supreme Court of Section 3 (5) of Article XI of the Constitution has therefore become part of the law of the land, which Congress is duty-bound to follow.

The referral of the Lozano Complaint to the H.R. Committee on Justice by the Speaker of the House of Representatives through the Secretary General, which was duly received by the Committee on July 26, 2005 at 4:20 o'clock in the afternoon, **EFFECTIVELY COMPLETED THE INITIATION OF THE IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE PRESIDENT.** Thus, beginning 4:20 o'clock in the afternoon of July 26, 2005, the impeachment proceedings against the President had, by operation of law, commenced. From that time, and until after one year, Section 3 (5) of Article XI of the Constitution bars the initiation of another impeachment proceeding through the filing of a subsequent complaint.

Likewise, beginning 4:20 o'clock in the afternoon of July 26, 2005, the Committee had acquired jurisdiction over the Lozano Complaint, consequently barring it from entertaining further complaints which would necessarily initiate another impeachment proceeding.

Section 3 (5) of Article XI of the Constitution limits the power of Congress to entertain impeachment complaints. This was so declared by the Supreme Court in the *Francisco* case. It said, **"[O]ur Constitution, though vesting in the House of Representatives the exclusive power to initiate impeachment cases, provides for several limitations to the exercise of such power as embodied in Section 3(2), (3), (4) and (5), Article XI thereof. These limitations include the manner of filing, required vote to impeach, and the one year bar on the impeachment of one and the same official."**

Since this is a limitation of power against Congress, and in favor of the respondent in an impeachment proceeding, the same should be construed strictly against the exercise of said power, much like the interpretation of penal laws, particularly so because the consequence of a successful impeachment is removal from office. The system of justice upon which our nation's ideals are founded demands that everyone, from the most destitute individual to the President herself, be accorded fairness and the presumption of innocence. If genuine charges are to be leveled against the President, she must answer them, but in the proper forum, the proper manner, and at the proper time.

The members of the House Committee on Justice, being lawmakers, are expected to be the first to uphold the Constitution, the laws, and the pronouncements of the Supreme Court, against the institution of more than one impeachment proceeding within a period of one year. However, certain members of Congress want to bypass this restriction by insisting that the Committee on Justice take cognizance of all the three impeachment complaints against the President. It is their fervent hope that the sheer volume of charges and evidence with which they will bombard the President, regardless of their value or truthfulness, will incite the people into declaring her guilty without any proof, spitting on the rule of law and trampling underfoot the fundamentals of justice in favor of sensationalism and trumped-up allegations. Their threat to bring their grievance to the streets should the Committee on Justice rule against them exposes their hypocrisy, adhering to laws and procedures only when it suits their ends.

We are not their sheep, or their pawns. We are not their instruments to achieve power through illegitimate means. Let us not allow them to insult the intelligence of the Filipino any further. Amidst the clamor and the confusion, let us all be vigilant, and not allow ourselves to be misled by these sectors of society who have no genuine interest but to power grab for their own selfish ends. Let us think for ourselves, and weigh all the considerations and all the evidence before we act.

Petty accusations and malicious rhetoric will not sway us, here in the Philippines, where the rule of law shall always prevail.

ATTY. ANDREW FORNIER

Makati, August 22, 2005

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Gov't support for workers' inns sought

By Tarra V. Quismundo

CONVINCED that its latest endeavor would benefit low-income families, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has begun soliciting support from national government agencies and local government units (LGUs) for its planned construction of low-cost workers' inns in Metro Manila.

MMDA's planning office said yesterday that the MMDA's Bed-Bath-and-Shop project was presented last week to the budget, social welfare, and public works departments, and the Metro Manila Council, the agency's policy-making body made up of mayors in the metropolis.

"The national government agencies were very positive about the proposal. When it was presented to the mayors, there were some who said yes. But our main concern now is to get the resources for the construction of the pilot," said MMDA Assistant General Manager for Planning Cora Cruz, the project's taskmaster.

The project was based on a proposal from MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando to give vendors a venue to sell their wares, and to spare workers from rising transportation costs by giving them a place to stay for the night.

An overnight stay would cost P25, while stalls and commercial spaces could be rented for as low as P83 to P100.

"This is aimed at poverty alleviation and also address the problem of congestion in the streets," said Cruz. "At the same time, this would give vendors livelihood opportunities."

The MMDA design featured four-story inns with market space at the ground floor, and commercial and office spaces on the second floor. The third floor, meanwhile, would be reserved as a dormitory for female transients, while the top floor would be exclusive to males. Each dorm level would have communal toilet and bath facilities.

Based on initial computations, the MMDA placed construction cost at P18 million per building.

With MMDA studies showing an increase of transients and street sleepers on roadways and sidewalks, Cruz said the MMDA's aim was to put up 20 buildings in most, if not all, Metro Manila's 17 cities and municipalities.

This would put total construction cost at P360 million for decent night stops for some 5,000 urban workers, and proper vending areas for some 1,500 vendors in Metro Manila. Each building could host 250 transients on the two dorm levels at a given time, said MMDA Urban Planning Director Virgilio Villanueva.

"For the pilot, we are thinking of asking help from the Department of Budget and Management," added Cruz. "The ideal is to do this in partnership with LGUs. The pilot would showcase how it would operate, and for local governments to replicate the project in their localities."

The first worker's inn may rise in Quezon City, possibly near the Balintawak public market, said Cruz. But the planning office was still "scouting" for available lots all over the Metro, he added.

Villanueva said that on top of construction costs, the project could also cost the government some P325 million per year for utility expenses and maintenance of the inns' facilities.

Roosevelt lecture

THE ROOSEVELT College System-College Department, through the broadcast communication program, will hold a seminar-lecture on "Popularizing Science Through Television: The Constel Experience" in Cainta at 1 p.m. today at the college audio-visual room.

The guest speaker will be Vizmalou E. Bonalos, manager of National Broadcasting Network–Channel 4 and in charge of production of the Continuing Science Education Through Television (Constel).

METRO
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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MRT, LRT start midnight run

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PLANNING an all-night party or coming home late from overtime work? Forget your cars and use the railway systems instead.

The three railways systems in Metro Manila now operate until midnight, according to the Department of Transportation and Communications department (DOTC).

The Metro Rail Transit 3 and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2 open at 5:30 a.m. and used to close at 9:30 p.m.

The extended operation started yesterday as the department's answer to the energy conservation efforts of the government, spokesperson Gen. Thompson Lantion said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo herself had asked the public to conserve energy amid the looming financial crisis threatening her already embattled administration. Part of this drive is to promote the use of mass transport systems.

Instead of using their cars late in the evening, motorists are advised to use the railway systems instead, and save on gas.

In a statement, DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the extended schedule would be implemented temporarily to determine if the volume or riders would be enough to enable the railways to sustain its operations until midnight.

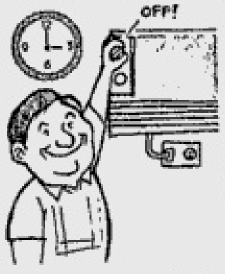
"We will evaluate the ridership volume for several weeks before we decide if we will push through with the scheme on a more permanent basis," Lantion also told the INQUIRER.

Lantion said the new schedule would encourage commuters to patronize midnight operations and ensure its continued implementation.

The DOTC assured commuters that they would beef up security measures during these extended hours of operation to ensure the safety of passengers.

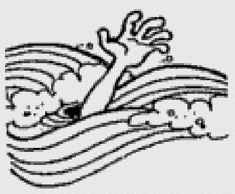
METROBRIEFS

Lights out



MANILA City Hall officials were urged to cut down on fuel allocations for city-owned vehicles in the face of worsening oil crisis. Mayor Lito Atienza said this was part of the energy conservation measures that the city would implement as its contribution to the nationwide energy conservation effort. The mayor also suggested that all City Hall offices should avoid the prolonged use of air-conditioning units by turning them on at 10 a.m. instead of 8 a.m, and turning these off at 3 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. "I also instructed city electrician Efren Malonzo to check on the limited use of lights during lunch break," he said. City officials estimate savings of at least 35 percent in monthly power consumption with the measures. *Tina G. Santos.*

Swept away


ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

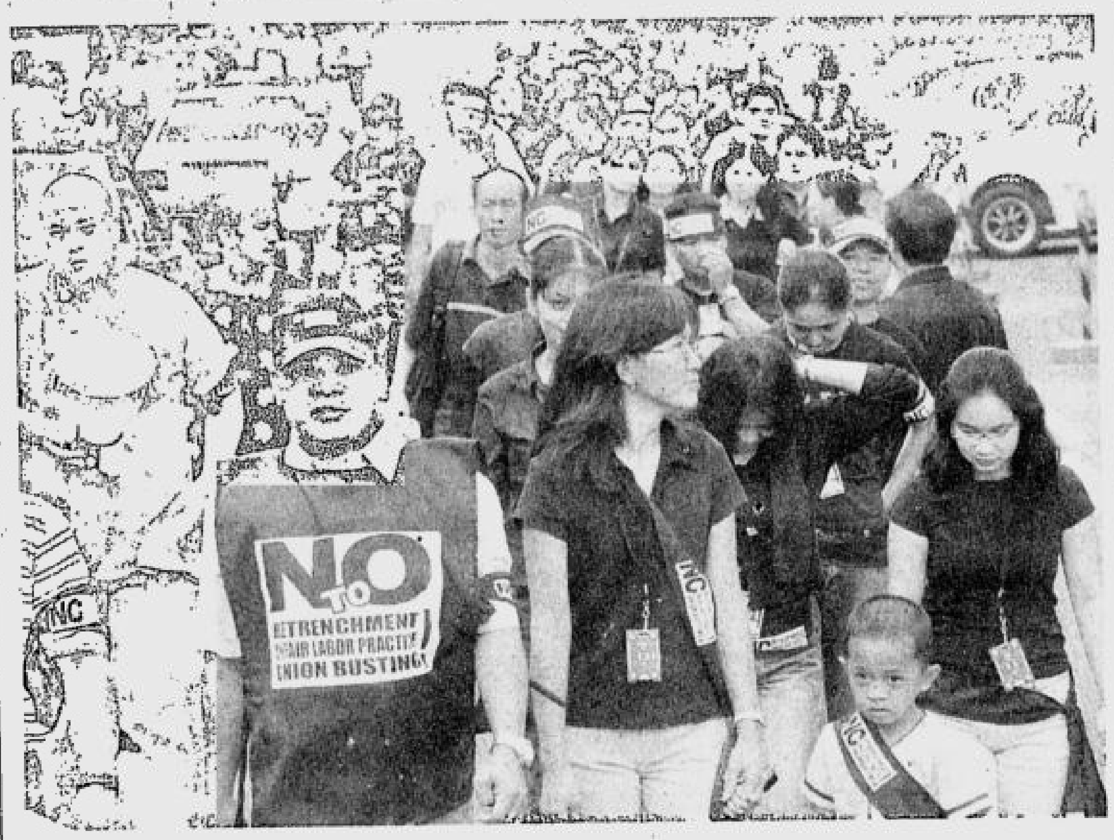
PLAYTIME ended in a tragedy in Marikina City after the body of a 12-year-old boy was fished out of the Marikina River yesterday morning. Fishermen found the body of Arjon Lumibao floating near the riverbank in Doña Petra, Barangay Concepcion Uno, at about 9:30 a.m. yesterday, police said. The victim's father told investigators his son managed to sneak out of their house in Barangay Parang Sunday afternoon. The boy apparently went to the Balubad Resettlement Area beside the river to swim with four playmates, Barangay Parang watchman Franklin Zamora said. A teenager living in the area saw the children drowning, but a bystander was able to save Arjon's four playmates. Arjon appeared to have been swept away by the strong currents, residents said. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Rape suspects arrested

QUICK police action resulted in the arrest of three of five suspects allegedly involved in gang-raping a 27-year-old woman in Malabon City early dawn yesterday. Arrested were Joel and Marvin Gotuato of 21 Reyes St. corner M.H. Del Pilar Sancianco, Malabon City, together with a minor. Police said a case had been filed against the three at the city prosecutor's office. The suspects were positively identified by the victim as among those who alternately abused her in a house in Sancianco Street, Malabon City. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Job fair in Mandaluyong

AS part of Mayor Neptali Gonzales' weeklong birthday celebration, the city government of Mandaluyong will hold a mega job fair at the City Gymnasium from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. The fair aims to reduce the total of unemployed in the city which was recorded as 37,872, one of the smallest in Metro Manila. Interested applicants must bring their resumes along with a 2x2" photograph.


NO TO RETRENCHMENT UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICE UNION BUSTING

BLACK MONDAY
ABS-CBN employees protest against reorganization moves at a picket of the TV station yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

NBI takes over case of ex-solon's slay

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is now handling the case of murdered Fausto Seachon on the request of the late Masbate congressman's family.

"We have agreed with Philippine National Police (PNP) Director General Arturo Lomibao to take over the case after two policemen assigned in Masbate were initially invited for questioning," NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco told reporters yesterday. He said the PNP would hand over their files on Seachon to the bureau.

Wycoco said the NBI was looking into political and personal angles in the assassination of Seachon in Caloocan City on June 26.

The NBI director said some witnesses identified members of the Masbate police at the crime scene. "We need to find out why those policemen were in Caloocan in the first place," Wycoco said.

Seachon, 64, was playing mahjong in a billiard shop near his house at Road 11 GSIS Hills, Talipapa, Barangay 164, when a man approached and fired at him at close range.

Oil firm may face raps for gas leak in QC

By DJ Yap

A MAJOR oil company could still be held liable for the gas leak that caused an explosion in Quezon City on Sunday, although it had agreed to shoulder the medical expenses of victims and the repair of damaged property.

The Quezon City fire department said it would file charges of reckless imprudence resulting in damage to property and physical injuries against Shell and Darnel Imbo, driver of the leaking tanker, when the victims filed their affidavits.

The Shell tanker, with plate number XFB-115, spilled some 5,000 liters of gasoline into a canal, causing an explosion that razed a house and hurt 16 persons in a slum area in Don Antonio Heights Subdivision in Barangay Holy Spirit.

The blast also caused the collapse of and damage to several shanties. Glass windows of other houses also reportedly shattered.

The leak reportedly started when the valve in one of the compartments was punctured by a large rock, according to arson investigators.

Imbo had parked the tanker on Don Gregorio Street after the incident. The gas later leaked into a canal leading to a creek. Someone might have turned on a stove that triggered the blast a kilometer away from where the tanker was parked, a fire official said.

SFO3 Dionisio Capote said Shell technical experts had now declared the area bordered by Don Gregorio, Don San Miguel and Don Victorino Streets safe, as no more gas concentrations were traced.

He said the Shell tanker was brought to the Pandacan depot so it could no longer pose a danger to people.

Capote said, though Shell was assisting victims, an investigation was needed to ascertain the oil company's liability.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said he preferred an amicable settlement between Shell and the victims, "unless the the victims were found to have been negligent." Shell assured the mayor they would pay for the hospitalization of the victims, as well as the reconstruction or repair of damaged houses.

Belmonte said claims for property damage could be filed with the barangay, while victims seeking medical aid could go directly to the company. The mayor said he had also instructed the city engineer to inspect the area for possible damage to the barangay's drainage system.

Cybersex workers now do freelance work

By Margaux C. Ortiz

INTERNET pornography models have become more sophisticated in plying their trade.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Special Investigator Ross Dantes said that instead of having managers, many girls were now "freelancing."

"This is a new development, since women involved in Internet pornography were usually part of a group or establishment," Dantes added.

A "freelance" model could go to an Internet cafe, log on to chatrooms and connect with potential customers, Dantes said.

"But she has to establish an account with 'Paypal,' a site where customers could remit their payment for the girl's services," the investigator said.

Dantes added they raided an Internet cafe allegedly involved in cyber pornography in Pampanga last Saturday.

The raiding team seized nine computers worth P450,000 from the establishment at 4180-A Zeppelin St., Hensonville, Malabanas, Angeles City.

The investigator said documents confiscated during the raid showed the establishment had been operating since 2004.

"We also met six girls with IDs proving that they were Internet pornography models. We got their usernames, passwords, and real names," Dantes said.

The investigator added that the establishment earned $3.99 per minute, while the girls got from 50 cents to $1.

Dantes said the owner of the establishment would be charged with violation of Republic Act 9208 or Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003.

NBI Anti Fraud and Computer Crimes Division (AFCCD) chief Elfren Meneses Jr. earlier confirmed reports that around 200,000 Filipinos had been lured into cybersex because of the huge amount of money involved.

Meneses said many females, found cybersex an ideal occupation "because of the easy money." While nightclub customers gave an average tip of P500, cybersex workers earned a minimum of $3 per minute, he added.

High time GMA's action became presidential

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

MIKE Velarde, leader of the religious group El Shaddai, was disappointed that he wasn't able to have President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Erap reconcile on stage during his birthday bash at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila last Sunday.

Velarde, the flamboyant and grandstanding preacher that he is, wanted his flock, mostly ignorant and gullible Catholics, to admire him some more. That's why he cooked up the idea of the current Chief Executive and the deposed President shaking hands on stage, to the delight of his witless followers.

But President Arroyo, no matter how much she fears Velarde, could not stomach being made *uto-uto* (gullible) by Velarde in front of his followers.

That's the reason GMA left Brother Mike's birthday party before Erap's convoy reached the Luneta.

The President probably had a change of mind about being seen with her predecessor who is being tried for plunder, a heinous crime. She probably thought why should she demean her office by being made to reconcile with Erap when it wasn't her who filed the plunder case but the People of the Philippines?

I think it's high time GMA stopped demeaning the presidency by acting presidential. She has been practically kissing the behind of any Tom, Dick and Harry who invokes God. She was reportedly even seen crying after coming out of a dialogue with a Catholic clergyman.

The President must know that she's not only the President of the country's Catholic majority. She's also the leader of all Filipinos of different faith.

***Huwag kang magpa-uto sa mga pari at pari-parian*, Madame President. They are also sinners like the rest of us.**

* * *

For a measly sum, ex-Mayor Paulino Ong of Naga, Cebu, was sentenced to 64 years in prison by the Sandiganbayan.

Ong's crime? He falsified documents so that his two cousins, Rosalio Galeos and Federico Rivera, could be employed as plumber and maintenance man at the town hall.

Ong lied about his kinship with Galeos and Rivera.

The government probably lost P40,000 on account of Ong's illegal employment of Galeos and Rivera for which he was also fined the same amount by the anti-graft court.

But why is our judicial system very harsh with small thieves but lenient toward big-time grafters?

The plunder case filed against Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay; his wife Elenita, former Makati mayor herself; Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado; several Makati officials and private contractors has been gathering dust at the Office of the Ombudsman.

The plunder case stemmed from the report of a special task force formed by the Commission on Audit that found that the concerned officials and private persons cheated the government to the tune of P622 million.

Compare P622 million that Binay et al. allegedly stole from the country's premier town, and the P40,000 that Ong stole from his small town and you will see the mind-boggling difference.

Ong is about to begin his 64-year prison term whereas Binay and company are not even being investigated by the Ombudsman.

INQUIRER Platinum Code

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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Podium finish for RP's Sy, Peña /A22
■ Davao booters whip Cebuanas in national tilt /A22

■ Sharapova No. 1 at last /A23
■ Tiger takes fifth Tour victory /A23

Vengeful RP-SMB five mauls Chinese by 33

Fiery Ritualo shines from 3-point range again

REN-REN Ritualo comes away with six triples, a day after shooting seven in the losing game against Japan. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

BRUNEI—The RP-San Miguel Beer five bounced back from a demoralizing setback to Toshiba-Japan Saturday night, venting its ire on Shandong Jinshidun Lions of China, 97-64, Sunday for its first win in the 5th Shell Rimula Cup at the National Indoor Stadium here.

All 11 men coach Chot Reyes fielded scored as the Nationals came out with more focus and determination following their 89-80 loss to the Japanese.

"I don't mind losing as long as we lose playing our best," said Reyes. "I felt last night Toshiba did not beat us, we beat ourselves."

"At halftime, I told the players to concentrate on doing little things like boxing out and executing our defense," he added. "Last night, I think we tried to do the big things. We lost because we forgot to do these little things."

Ren-Ren Ritualo again led RP-SMB with 18 points, all from the three-point region, and this time, the rest of the Nationals contributed in different ways.

Dondon Hontiveros added 16 points while Jimmy Alapag kept the RP offensive machine humming with nine points, eight assists and four steals.

In one of the most applauded plays of the game, Alapag issued an alley-oop pass that Kelly Williams slammed home with one hand.

Ritualo fired four of his six triples in the third period when RP-SMB increased its 41-29 halftime lead to 68-42.

The lead ballooned to as much as 34 points, and the Chinese, who dropped their second straight game, compounded their trouble when their key players fouled out.

As in their game against the Japanese, the Filipinos took control early, 41-27.

Asi Taulava was totally a nonfactor in the first half after being assessed a technical foul, but his Talk 'N Text partner Alapag and Ritualo picked up the scoring slack.

The scores:

RP-SMB 97—Ritualo 18, Hontiveros 16, Belasco 11, Alapag 9, Dela Cruz 8, Helterbrand 8, Williams 7, Reavis 6, Adducul 5, Taulava 5, Raymundo 4.

SHANDONG 64—Zhiming 14, Mingtao 11, Xiaodong 10, Zhenzua 7, Yu 6, Gang 4, Zhi 4, Xuelin 4.

Quarters: 26-23, 41-29, 71-49, 97-64

Drastic pay cut for Calaguio

By June Navarro

RATHER than go jobless, Chris Calaguio, one of Shell's highest-paid players, has signed a modest contract with San Miguel Beer in the Philippine Basketball Association.

The 6-foot-1 marksman will receive his old monthly salary of more than P350,000 up to December, then take a drastic pay cut for the next two-and-a-half years so the Beermen can accommodate him within the team's tight salary cap.

By rough estimate, Calaguio still stands to earn P7 million to P8 million until the 2007-'08 season, exclusive of bonuses.

SMB's Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle are among the league's highest paid players. Fellow Beermen Olsen Racela, Nic Belasco and Dondon Hontiveros squeeze the team's cap even more.

CALAGUIO

Shell shipped the 1998 NCAA MVP to SMB in exchange for Joey Mente, Arnold Gamboa and Eric Canlas.

Calaguio signed a four-year contract with the Turbo Chargers in 2002, a year before the league applied belt-tightening measures and reduced the maximum monthly salary cap for players from P5 million to P350,000.

After bidding the league adieu, Shell also dealt Tony dela Cruz and Rich Alvarez to Alaska, Billy Mamaril to Coca-Cola, Ronald Tubid to Air21 and Kalani Ferreria and Ervin Sotto to Barangay Ginebra. The rest of the Turbo Chargers were placed in the dispersal draft.

Mamaril and Tubid are being offered similar contracts for two-and-a-half years by the Tigers and Express, respectively.

Marlon Legaspi and Rensy Bajar were picked up in the dispersal draft but were later released by Air21.

Celino Cruz and Carlo Sharma are still fighting for a slot at Talk 'N Text and Coca-Cola, respectively, while there are no takers yet for Adonis Sta. Maria, Chris Jackson and Jun Marzan.

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	8	1
UE	8	2
Ateneo	6	2
La Salle	5	4
UP	5	4
Adamson	2	7
UST	2	8
NU	0	8

GAMES THURSDAY
(*Blue Eagle Gym*)
9:30 a.m.—Adamson vs National U (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Univ. of Philippines vs Ateneo (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—Adamson vs National U (Srs)
4 p.m.—Univ. of Philippines vs Ateneo (Srs)

UE Warriors a title threat with rookies

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHILE the Far Eastern U Tamaraws seem invincible with their veteran lineup, the University of the East Warriors look threatening with their bunch of rookies.

The Warriors, running second behind the Tams with an 8-2 record, continue to spring surprises in the UAAP basketball tournament.

Coach Dindo Pumaren's young cagers are definitely talented, but it's clearly the energy and the attitude that have kept them going.

"I hope that we'll continue to show intensity and aggressiveness every time we play," said Pumaren.

The Warriors' fantastic freshmen are led by shooting guard Bonbon Custodio and athletic 6-foot-4 swingman Mark Borboran.

"Bonbon has been shooting well," noted Pumaren.

He also cites the defensive efforts of rookie big men Elmer Espiritu and Kelvin Gregorio.

Keeping the Warriors steady are 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano and playmaker Earn Saguindel.

96 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

Major SEAG supporters still elusive

MINOR sponsors have started to respond but the big backers remain elusive for the cash-strapped organizers of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) yesterday released an updated list of sponsors including new participants like Philips and Ison Information Systems.

CNG is also making available at least 40 natural gas-fed buses to be used by athletes and officials of participating countries.

However, other blue-chip corporations remain unheard of as the Philsoc continues to scrounge for funds for the Nov. 27-Dec. 5 biennial Games.

San Miguel Corp. has already earmarked P100 million to fund the training of athletes in 10 sports disciplines through the "godfather" scheme initiated by the First Gentleman Foundation.

Philsoc is also assured of P100 million from GlobeTelecoms, while Smart Communications has confined its support to the PLDT landlines and Mabuhay Satellite service.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also committed P300 million as the government's contribution.

Other sponsors for the Games are Absolute Mineral Water, Philippine Airlines and Century Park Sheraton from the Lucio Tan Corp., Revicon Forte (official multivitamins), FedEx/Air 21 (official freight forwarder), Yonex (official outfitter), Milo (official energy drink), Thunder (official power drink), PCSO, PNOC, Microsoft, Ison Information System and Gatorade. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Cojuangco slams door on any BAP comeback

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday said he would resign if the Basketball Association of the Philippines is reinstated by the same assembly that kicked it out from the Olympic body two months ago.

Cojuangco said the POC has already made its decision when it voted unanimously to suspend and eventually expel the BAP for reneging on its agreement with the POC regarding the composition of the national cage team.

"Are they (BAP) expecting us to bend backward?" said Cojuangco. "We have made the decision and we must stand by it."

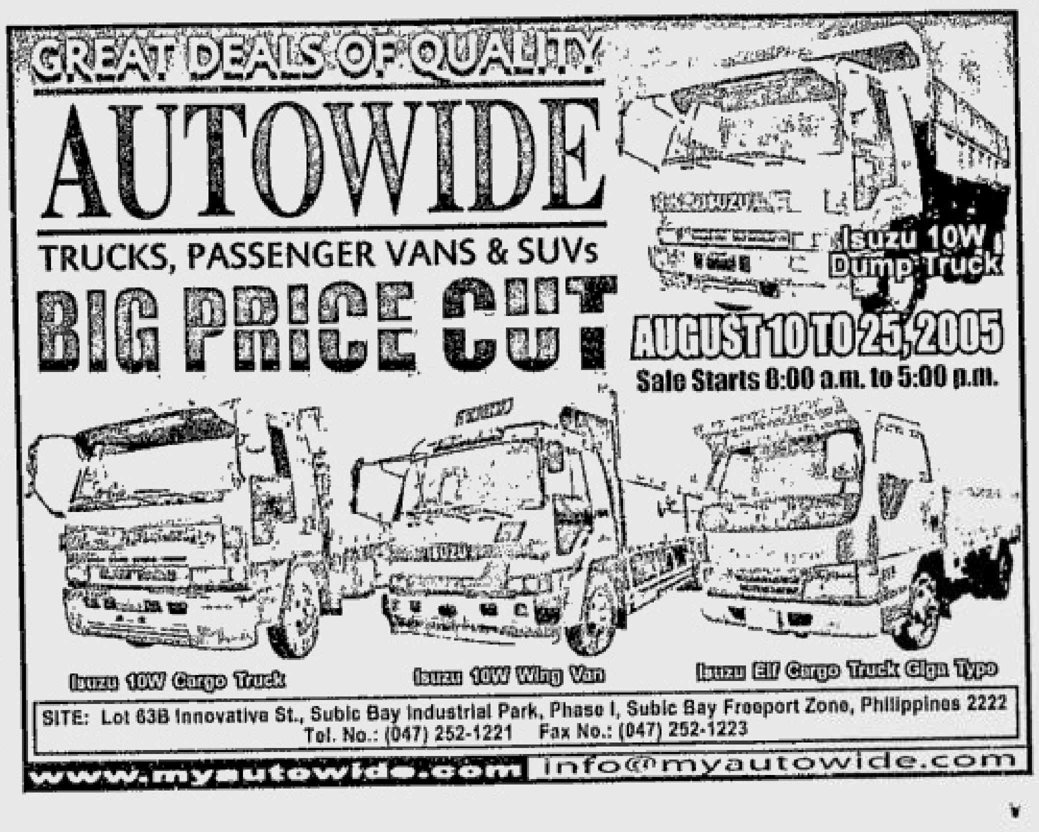
The Philippine Basketball Federation has since been accredited by the POC as the sport's governing body, but the PBF has yet to get the nod of the international basketball federation (Fiba), which continues to recognize the BAP.

Cojuangco is also taking the cudgels for PBF president Moying Martelino, who on Sunday slammed the BAP officials for making a threat that unless the BAP is admitted back to the POC, the country won't be able to hold the basketball tournament in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

For the POC to reverse its earlier vote, the BAP needs to muster at least half of the 39 voting NSAs in a general assembly.

The POC head also expressed confidence that the PBF would eventually obtain Fiba recognition considering that it has a solid organization.

The Philippines has not lost a basketball gold in the SEA Games since 1989.



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Sick

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ANYBODY saying Philippine basketball is sick is sick. Either he is a loony or a quack doctor. There's no escape.

What is sick is world basketball.

To be exact, the Fiba, which governs world basketball, is the one sick.

I have yet to see a world governing body insisting on recognizing an association expelled by its mother country.

Fiba wants to be different?

Welcome to the world of make-believe, where you are forced to embrace an aberration, where you are forced to accept crookedness as politically correct.

What can be more obnoxious than seeing Fiba meddling into the internal affairs of its member?

What can be more crooked than the Fiba decision recognizing the expelled BAP as the Philippine basketball's representative to the Fiba?

Look, when Tita Cory was installed President by the Edsa Revolt of '86 that toppled Marcos from power, the United Nations and the entire world readily recognized the correctness of the process.

Look, when GMA succeeded Erap in the aftermath of the 2001 Edsa Revolt that eased Erap out of Malacañang, again the United Nations and the entire world readily recognized the correctness of the process.

Seemingly, Fiba doesn't want anything to do with any thing that is politically correct. Otherwise it would have promptly recognized the correctness of the 33 NSA presidents voting to expel the BAP out of the country's Olympic movement. (Only two voted no—cycling's Bert Lina and baseball's Hector Navasero.)

You have 33 of 35 decent and, therefore, very much respected NSA presidents electing for the ouster of BAP, isn't that an overwhelming proof of the correctness of the democratic process in the POC?

Yes, but Fiba has other ideas, though, ideas that are, sadly, absolutely bereft of logic.

Chief of those is Fiba's twisted logic of continuing to recognize the expelled BAP in a direct defiance of a country's inherent right to chart its own affairs.

If that's not the apex of madness, what is?

Fiba has not only put the POC in a bad light. The Philippines, too.

It could have the resultant effect on the entire world that ours is a country that doesn't do things right all the time.

I do not deny the prevalence of a lot of wickedness going on in this benighted nation, due mainly to the machinations of politicians in cahoots with those with vested interests.

But for Fiba to defy our Olympic movement, where the so-called last bastion of fair play and sportsmanship is sacredly reposed, is simply too much to bear.

What takes the cake is, Fiba even publicly issued a statement calling for the investigation of the POC General Assembly's decision to expel the BAP.

Suddenly, the 33 NSA presidents are now the accused.

Did the 33 do it right?

Fiba wants to know.

That is worse than putting GMA on the witness stand to testify on the veracity of the voice on the other line of the Hello Garci tapes.

By defying the POC's General Assembly decision to expel the BAP, the Fiba has, in effect, questioned the integrity of the POC. And since the POC is virtually the Philippines, the Fiba has likewise put the country on trial before the international sporting bar of public opinion.

I can't think of any darker scenario than that.

Or, nothing can be a more sickening thought than that.

Indeed, it's a sick world, as sick as Fiba.

I guess, even Dr. Doolittle will be of little help.

***

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

Podium finish for RP's Sy, Peña in Indon AF3

By Roy Luarca

BOGOR, Indonesia—A sudden heavy downpour proved to be a blessing for Tyson Sy and Dado Peña Sunday afternoon as the Filipino youngsters joined eighth round winner Ananda Mikola at the podium of the Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix at the Sentul International Circuit here.

Sy rallied from fourth place going to the last three laps to finish second while Peña overtook Macau's Rodolfo Avila in the final bend to duplicate his third place effort in the seventh round held in the morning.

Regaining his bearing, Mikola worked his way up from 13th place at the grid to notch his fifth series victory and pulled away in the overall standings with 115 points.

Mikola clocked 15 minutes and 01.707 seconds in 10 laps to earn 20 points in the round, making up for his zero in round seven, where he did not finish.

The wet track led to the raising of the red flag and disqualification of seventh round topnotcher and erstwhile pacesetter John O' Hara of Ireland, and Great Britain's James Winslow, who was then running second, in the fourth lap.

O'Hara and Winslaw were disqualified as they spun out of the slippery track and needed outside help to resume racing and head back to the pits.

They were joined at the pits by Ireland's Lee Farrell and Barry Waugh, whose cars were damaged after Farrell took a spin and was bumped at the rear by Waugh; Ireland's Greg Murphy, the Philippines' Enzo Pastor, Argentina's Don Tacos and 2004 AF3 champion Christian Jones of Australia.

Filipino veteran Pepon Marave of Shell Helix Kinetic PSCO was supposed to begin from the pits, but his car didn't start, reducing the field to just six cars after the race was halted for more than 30 minutes as the drivers' crew changed the tires.

"I'm quite happy, but at the same time disappointed because of my performance (in the seventh round where he landed fourth)," said Sy, 17, who started that round in pole position.

Driving with utmost precision, Sy overtook Avila in the seventh lap and then held off the pursuing Peña, also 17, with his clocking of 15:07.121.

Sy of Speedtech Asia earned 15 points as second-placer and climbed into a tie for fifth overall with Team Goddard-MinardiTeam Asia's Pena, who timed 15:51.435.

They both have 61 points, trailing Winslow's 70, O'Hara's 67 and Jones' 62.

RACE winner Ananda Mikola (center) and Filipinos Tyson Sy (left) and Dado Peña display their trophies after finishing 1-2-3 in the eighth leg.

"I didn't expect to win because I started at 13th," said Mikola of Fastron Racing with Threebond. "But then I climbed to sixth after the first lap and fifth by the second so I pushed my engine to the limit."

The 26-year-old Mikola, who swept the two races here last year, then surged ahead off the line when race resumed. "I'm very happy with this victory as it came at my home track," Mikola added.

Though satisfied with his back-to-back podium finishes, Peña promised to study the 3.9-km track more extensively for the ninth and 10th rounds also slated here on Sept. 18.

Indon Moreno Suprato, Mikola's half-brother, beat Filipino JP Tuason for the promotion's class title.

Suprato clocked 15:49.726 against Tuason's 16:10.107.

For AF3 updates, visit www.asianf3.net and www.pldtmypad.net.

Marquez powers Parañaque victory

PLAYMAKER Nino Marquez exploded for 41 points Sunday to propel Boy Bawang-Parañaque to a come-from-behind 123-119 victory over Pamplona Plantation in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Washington gym in Makati City.

With its third win in four games, Parañaque tied idle Far Eastern Insurance-Cavite on top of the standings.

Ex-San Sebastian Stag Chris Baluyot led Pamplona with 37.

In the other game, Sta. Rosa-Spring crushed the Manuel L. Quezon University Stallions, 104-74, to raise its record to 2-1.

The scores:

STA. ROSA 104—Reyes 21, Nuqui 19, Manucat 15, Caceres 14, Nolasco 10, Roda 10, Proceso 9, Vivero 6.

MLQU 74—Vitug 16, Lariosa 13, Lustistica 12, Dizon 10, Tadlas 9, Manalansan 8, Siglos 4, Crisostomo 2, Rosario 1.

Quarters: 23-16, 49-28, 86-51, 104-74.

PARAÑAQUE 123—Marquez 41, Rodriguez 23, Basilides 19, Lopez 16, Saquilayan 8, Tolentino 7, Guiyab 7, Aquitania 2.

PAMPLONA 119—Baluyot 37, Jarenciso 23, Regalado 19, Sario 16, Pacheco 12, Rebuya 12.

Quarters: 28-32, 60-69, 93-97, 123-119.

SPORTSWATCH

St. Francis, Olivarez clash in Ucaa opener

THREE matches will kick off the 4th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (Ucaa) men's basketball season today at the fully air-conditioned San Andres Sports and Civic Center in Manila. St. Francis of Assisi College and host Olivarez College begin hostilities when they meet in the opener at 10 a.m. The Doves, who lost the crown to the Emilio Aguinaldo College Generals, are hoping to bounce back with a younger roster. The maturity of the Generals and the promise of their three rookies will be tested when EAC meets the league's newest member, Asian College of Science and Technology, at 11:30 a.m. Philippine School of Business Administration clashes with the National College of Business and Arts in the final game at 1 p.m. Manila Councilor Kim Atienza is the league's guest of honor during the 9 a.m. opening ceremonies with Manila Sports Council chief Ali Atienza making the ceremonial toss of the eight-school league, which is headed this season by its president Teddy Talens of Olivarez College.

PUP, UST netters dispute Adidas plum

POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines blanked San Sebastian College, 2-0, over the weekend to arrange a titular showdown with UAAP titlist University of Santo Tomas in the collegiate men's team event of the Adidas Tennis Challenge 2005 at the UP-Diliman Tennis Club. UST nipped arch-rival La Salle, 2-1, in the Adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Milo, Globe Gentext and Snickers. In the collegiate women's play, College of St. Benilde ousted La Salle-A, 2-0, to earn the right to face UST, which blanked La Salle-B, 2-0, for the title. Ateneo survived San Sebastian, 2-1, and set up a title clash with San Beda, which tripped La Salle Greenhills, 2-1, for the high school boys' crown.

HEAT program gets Gatorade backing

GATORADE gives local sports science a boost when it sponsors a by-invitation-only seminar at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel next week with two leading sports scientists to conduct the HEAT Program. Dr. Xiaocai Shi, Ph.D. holder from the University of Iowa and presently a senior scientist at the Gatorade Sports Science Insitute (GSSI) and Kris Osterberg, an exercise physiology scientist also at GSSI, will be flown in by Gatorade to talk on Hydration Education and Athletic Training (HEAT) before the country's notable names in sports, athletics, and sports medicine. Dr. Shi will share the results of GSSI's research on sweat loss and fluid availability. A fellow of American College of Sports Medicine, Dr. Shi has made numerous presentations on fluid replacements, temperature regulation, and intestinal absorption of carbohydrates, fluids and electrolytes. Ms Osterberg will talk on sweat/electrolyte losses and hydration status in the NBA. The seminar is part of Gatorade's assistance to sports practicioners, said marketing manager Clars Guerrero.

Paez, Garcia, Cuevas top MCC chess

DENTIST Alfredo Paez, San Beda's Jan Emmanuel Garcia and the PNP's Cecil Cuevas ruled their respective divisions in the MCC triple chess events Sunday at the J&F Divino Building in Quezon City. The Laguna-based Paez won the executive title with 5.0 points in six rounds of play. Paez drew his final match with Arman Lester Emperado, a junior net administration officer. Lawyer Edmundo Legaspi, who beat businessman Robert Racasa, finished second with 4.0 points, while Emperado and Racasa tied for third with 3.5 points each. The 10-year-old Garcia lost his final match to teener Michael Angelo Angeles but won the kiddies title over Ateneo bet John Robin Buenavista on a better quotient. Garcia and Buenavista finished with identical 5.0 points. Angeles settled for third with 4.5 in a tie with Nimrod Malabiga and Raymundo Victorino. In the unrated class, Cuevas upended Gerry Avila in the last round to take the title with 5.5 points. Jashfer Gonzales, Emerson Villa and Ryan Dungca shared second place with 5.0 apiece.

Senior PGA, Jones Cup tilts on ABC-5

ABC-5 will show the highlights of US Senior PGA Championships beginning today at 11 p.m. The four-day tournament will be aired until Friday on the same time slot. The quarterfinals of the 9-Ball World Pool Championships will also be replayed today at 4:30 p.m. while the semifinal rerun of the Kaoshiung, Taiwan, event is set on Thursday (4:30 p.m.). ABC-5 will air the game between the RP men's basketball team and Russia in the William Jones Cup on Thursday at 7 p.m. The penultimate encounter of the RP team against Taipei in the Jones Cup will be shown on Sunday. ABC Sports has reserved its 11 p.m.-12 midnight time slot during weekdays exclusively for golf shows and tournaments.

Davao whips Cebu, retains ladies crown

DAVAO CITY—Leonor Satorre blasted home two goals as host Davao whitewashed Cebu, 5-0, Sunday to retain its title in the 2005 PFF National Women's Championship at the Tiongko field here.

Satorre, later named event MVP and best striker with nine goals, scored in each half and set up Kristel Dureza for Davao's last marker with three minutes left before 3,000 cheering fans.

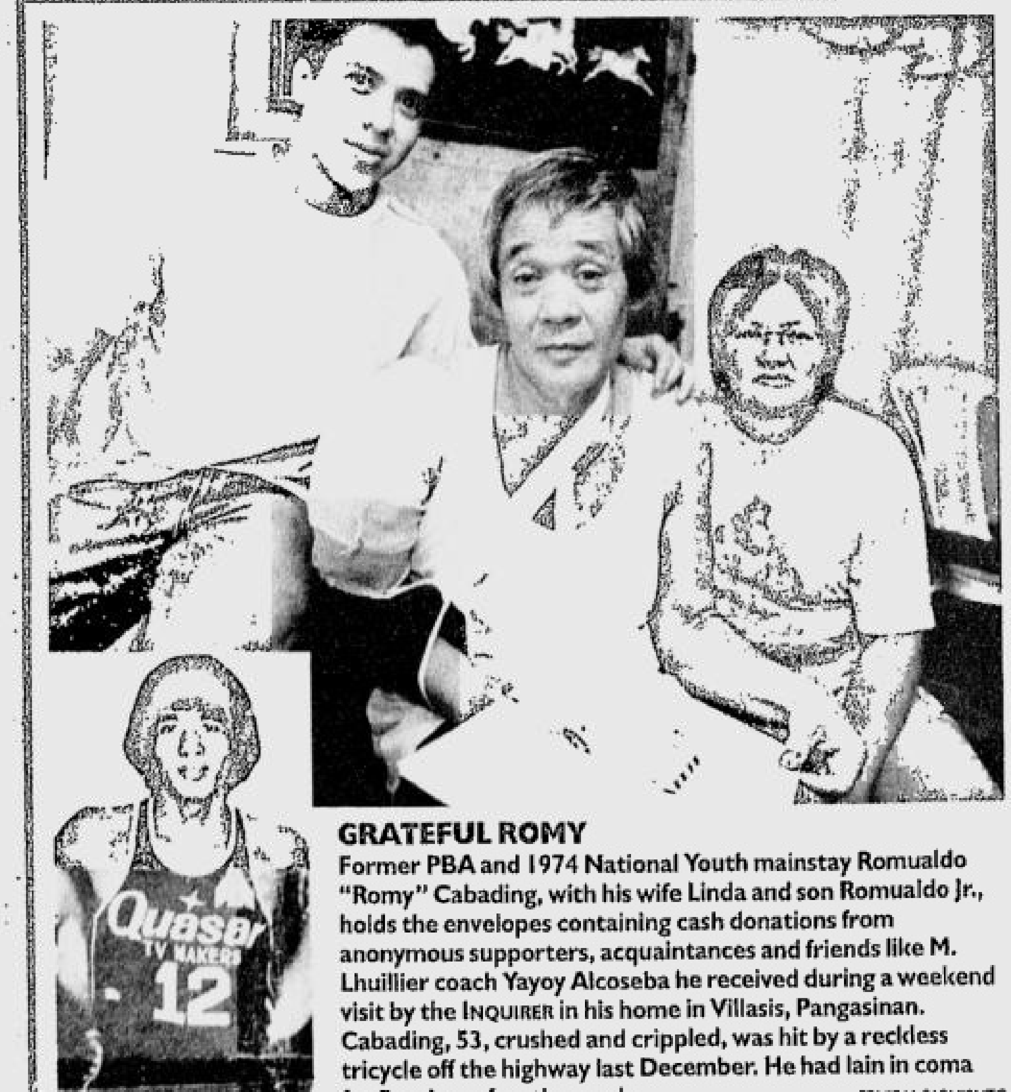
Mace Vilela, the tournament's top midfielder, drew first blood for the champion squad while Analou Ingles made it 3-0 early in the second half.

Iloilo won third place with a 4-1 rout of Cagayan de Oro as Anne Pilla pulled off a hat trick.

Rona Espinosa added another goal for Iloilo while Elna Furio hit the only goal for Cagayan de Oro-Misamis Oriental in the 48th minute.

Aside from Satorre and Vilela, also getting special awards were Keith Shelley Canton (best defender) and Lorena Mangao (best goal keeper)-all from Davao. The Davaoeñas were also awarded the Cris Monfort Fair Play Trophy.

PFF tournament commissioner Pablito Araneta announced the "Outstanding-11," namely, Lorena Mangao (Davao-goalkeeper), Defenders Roselle Mendoza (Cagayan de Oro), Ria Pulmones (Iloilo) and Gianelli Amigleo and Canton (Davao); Midfielders Corazon Bakke and Elna Furio (Cagayan de Oro) and Vilela and Vanessa Leonar (Davao); and strikers Satorre and Analou Ingles (Davao).



GRATEFUL ROMY

Former PBA and 1974 National Youth mainstay Romualdo "Romy" Cabading, with his wife Linda and son Romualdo Jr., holds the envelopes containing cash donations from anonymous supporters, acquaintances and friends like M. Lhuillier coach Yayoy Alcoseba he received during a weekend visit by the INQUIRER in his home in Villasis, Pangasinan. Cabading, 53, crushed and crippled, was hit by a reckless tricycle off the highway last December. He had lain in coma for five days after the crash.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

HC-San Juan outlasts MediaTrixx for title

HARBOUR Centre-San Juan showed great resolve down the stretch to outlast MediaTrixx Telecom, 80-71, and rule the recent MBL-San Juan Invitational Cup basketball tournament at the San Juan Gym.

Getting inspired plays from former pro Dindo Pumaren, now coach of the University of the East, La Salle's Jerwin Gaco, Christian Luanzon and Rommel Dizon, Harbour Centre-San Juan rode out Mediatrixx's repeated rallies to rule the event for the first time.

"It was a tough win," said team owner Mikee Romero. "I have to give credit to all my players, especially Jerwin and Dindo. Were were more determined to win the title."

Harbour Centre-San Juan won the best-of-3 series, 2-1. Harbour-San Juan took Game 1 before Mediatrixx, bannered by some players from Emilio Aguinaldo College and PSBA players, leveled the series with a big win in Game 2.

"I just hope this will be the start of our successful partnership with Harbour Centre," said San Juan mayor and team manager JV Ejercito. "We wish Harbour Centre all the best, especially in the team's coming stint in the PBL."

Harbour Centre is also supporting a team in the UAAP, URBL, NBC and even in the Small Basketeers League.

The 6-foot-4 Gaco terrorized the shaded lane as he banged in 24 points and grabbed 15 boards. He was adjudged the tournament's MVP.

MBL chair Alex Wang awarded the trophy to Ejercito, Romero and playing coach Rafael Dinglasan.

Mediatrixx was led by Niño Songco and Chito Reyes with 11 points.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Jet Sutter 2. Sheza Winner 2. Speed Royalty 4. Cheska Run
Race 2—1. Gold Is Gold 2. Holy King 3. Words of Joy 4. Top Most
Race 3—1. Breathless 2. Candu 3. Mainstay 4. Somos O No Somos 5. Deep Pockets
Race 4—1. Nothing to Declare/Plaridel Hero 2. Commodore Tiger 3. Yokozuna 4. Western Legend
Race 5—1. Prima Vera 2. E Mail 3. My Lady Hannah 4. Time Will Reveal 5. Manila Magic
Race 6—1. Sunline 2. Sir Guguy 3. Friendly Venture/Reporter 4. Nitty Gritty
Race 7—1. Hazit Coming 2. Carmelita 3. Queen's Gold 4. Pirouette 5. My Rabbonie
Race 8—1. Stradivarius 2. Lightning Strike 3. Carolina Belle 4. Honoree 5. Stingray 6. C'est Moi

Hidayat, world and Olympic champ: I'm one of the best

ANAHEIM, California—Olympic champion Taufik Hidayat captured his first badminton World Championship title on Sunday by dismantling Lin Dan, the world No. 1 and pre-tournament favorite.

World No. 6 Hidayat blitzed China's Lin early by winning the first 13 points of the men's singles final en route to a 15-3, 15-7 victory at the Arrowhead Pond arena.

The 24-year-old Indonesian becomes the first man to hold the Olympic and World titles at the same time.

"All of my targets of winning the prestigious tournaments have been achieved," Hidayat said. "Not everybody gets an Olympic as well as a World Championship. This proves I am one of the best in men's singles."

Indonesian shuttlers also took gold in mixed doubles as Nova Widianto and Lilyana Natsir defeated China's Xie Zhongbo and Zhang Yawen, 13-15, 15-8, 15-2.

The Chinese, favored to win in three of the five events, picked up just one gold when Xie Xingfang beat defending world and Olympic champion Zhang Ning, 11-8, 9-11, 11-3, in an all-China women's singles final.

This is Hidayat's third career victory over top seed Lin, who eliminated Filipino Kennievic Asuncion in the first round. Sunday's win came seven weeks after Hidayat beat Lin in the semifinals of the Singapore Open.

Lin was trying to end the top-seed jinx at the Worlds as only two top seeds have won the men's title since the first Worlds in 1977.

In the men's doubles finals, 13th seed Tony Gunawan and Howard Bach of the United States upset former world champions Candra Wijaya and Sigit Budiarto of Indonesia, 15-11, 10-15, 15-11, in 68 minutes. *AFP*

AMAZING CLIMB: Maria Sharapova reaches the summit. AP

Sharapova No.1 at last

MIAMI—Maria Sharapova's combination of dazzling looks and steely determination have turned the Russian tennis superstar into a sports phenomenon who transcends her game.

Little more than a year after she shot to stardom with her 2004 triumph at Wimbledon, the 18-year-old has become the fifth-youngest woman to claim the world No.1 ranking and the first Russian woman to achieve the feat.

It hardly matters that Sharapova's final step to the summit—she finally displaced American Lindsay Davenport atop the rankings on Monday—came after a week in which she was idled by injury.

"The computer doesn't lie," was Sharapova's blithe assessment as she contemplated capturing the coveted No. 1 in Toronto on Sunday.

"You have to achieve something in order to get there."

Amazing, indeed. Sharapova was an unheralded 17-year-old when she became the first Russian to win Wimbledon, dethroning two-time defending champion Serena Williams in the final.

She became the second-youngest winner in the Open era behind Martina Hingis, who was 16 when she won in 1997.

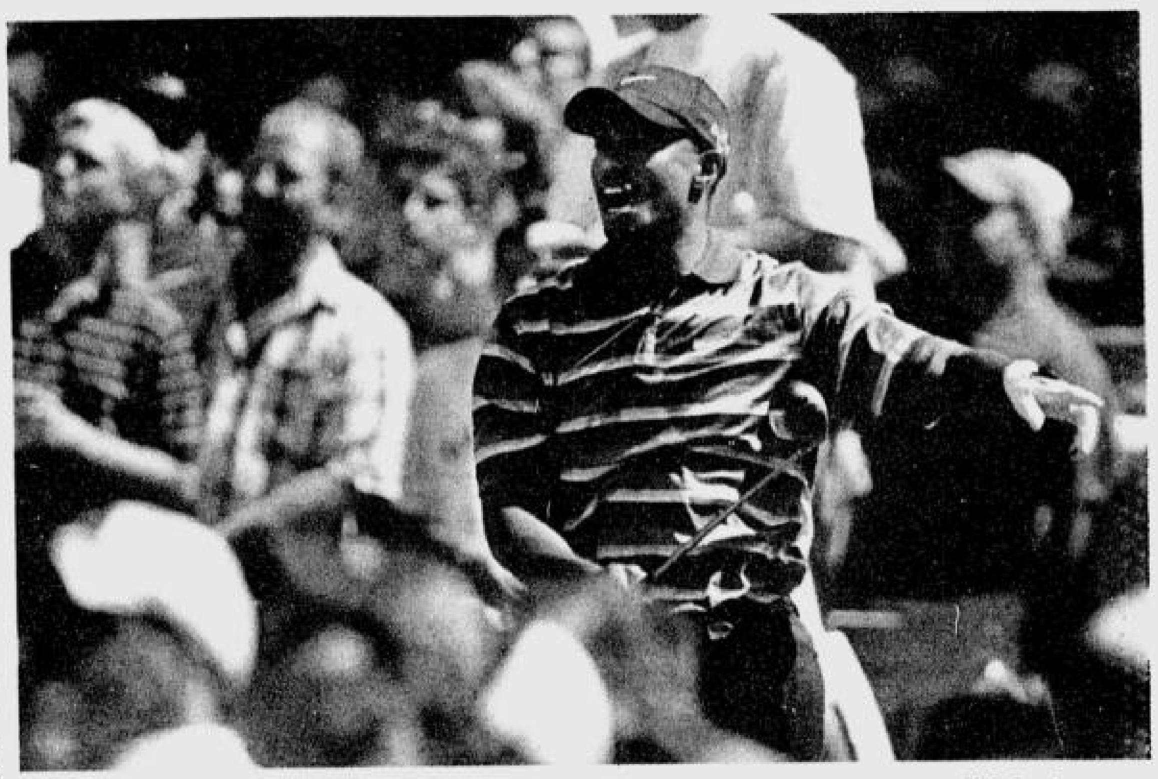
Sharapova has stalked the No.1 ranking for much of 2005, meanwhile reigning over a global endorsement empire.

She is the world's best paid sportswoman and has scooped about $25 million in sponsorships and endorsements, sultry images of the player selling everything from perfume and clothing lines to mobile phones.

"It's a dream come true to be able to win a Grand Slam and be number one," she says. "It puts a smile on your face." *AFP*

Tiger takes NEC title for fifth Tour victory

AKRON, Ohio—Tiger Woods overcame some shaky putting Sunday by making the one that mattered.



TIGER Woods yells as his tee shot on the third hole heads for the gallery at Firestone Country Club Sunday. AP

Woods rolled in an 18-foot birdie putt that broke sharply into the right side of the cup, then escaped with par from the trees on the 18th hole for a 1-under 71 and a one-shot victory over Chris DiMarco in the NEC Invitational.

Woods made it seven consecutive years with at least one World Golf Championship title since the series began in 1999, and he has won nine of the 18 WGC events he has played.

Despite his dominance at Firestone—four wins in his last six trips—this one required the most work.

Woods missed five putts inside 8 feet and trailed Kenny Perry by two shots when they made the turn. Even the birdie putt that finally gave him the lead required an approach from 189 yards over the water. It wasn't over until he pitched through the trees and onto the 18th green for a two-putt par from 20 feet.

"Let's just say I've had better days," Woods said with a smile when asked about his putting.

He finished at 6-under 274 and earned $1.3 million for his fifth victory of the year, one more than Vijay Singh and Phil Mickelson, enough to end any debate about the PGA Tour player of the year.

DiMarco, who lost to Woods in a playoff at the Masters, thought he might get another shot at him when he shot a 68 to finish at 275. Instead, he was forced to look back at a bogey on the 17th when he went after the flag and wound up in deep grass behind the green.

Playing four groups ahead of Woods, he had a 20-foot birdie on the 18th that grazed the cup's edge.

Paul McGinely, one of four players who had at least a share of the lead, bogeyed the 17th for a 72 and a tie for third with Singh (67) and Ryan Palmer (69).

Perry bogeyed five of the last six holes and wound up tied for sixth after a 74.

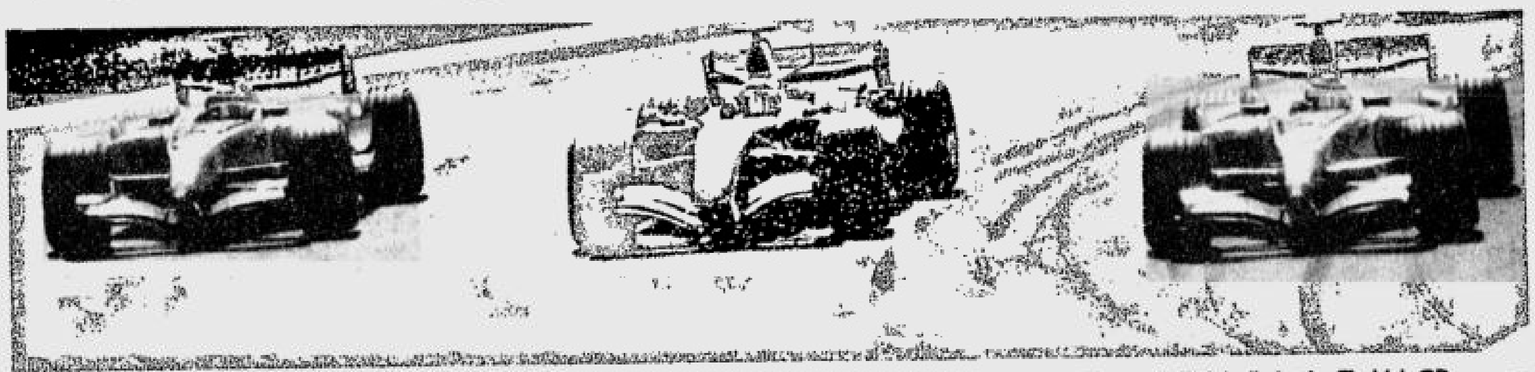
Blustery conditions contributed to Woods' struggles, although mostly it was his putter.

Woods only made the hard ones, including a 15-foot bender on the 10th hole for a two-shot lead that gave him a share of the lead with Perry. Then he missed an 8-footer for par on the 11th, and a 5-foot birdie putt on the 13th that would have given him the outright lead.

Woods walked to the next tee tapping his driver onto the cart path until he reached the grass, when he pounded the club into the ground.

He now has 45 career victories, moving past Walter Hagen into seventh on the all-time list.

Woods improved to 34-3 when he has at least a share of the 54-hole lead. *AP*



FINNISH driver Kimi Raikkonen (center) is flanked by Renault's Fernando Alonso (left) and his teammate Giancarlo Fisichella in the Turkish GP. AFP

Kim whips Justine

TORONTO—Seventh seed Kim Clijsters won eight of the final nine games to defeat fourth seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, 7-5, 6-1, in an all-Belgian final at a $1.3 million WTA hardcourt tournament here Sunday.

Clijsters, who missed much of last season with a wrist injury, captured her WTA-best sixth title of the year with the 71-minute triumph.

She has won 35 of her past 36 matches in North America.

In improving to a WTA-best 49-6 this year, Clijsters took her first victory over Henin-Hardenne since the 2003 final in Filderstadt.

Henin-Hardenne, failing in a bid for her fifth title of 2005, fell to 31-3 this year by losing the matchup of former world number ones. *AFP*

Federer shows who's boss

MASON, Ohio—Roger Federer won his 22nd straight final on Sunday, beating Andy Roddick, 6-3, 7-5, for the Cincinnati Masters title and his ninth overall victory this season.

Federer improved to 10-1 against Roddick, who tried every tactic but still came up short. Federer has won the last six times they've met, including the last two Wimbledon finals.

The world's top-ranked player for the last 81 weeks, Federer heads into the US Open fit, relaxed and on a roll. He took time off after winning his third straight Wimbledon, looking to recharge and rest a sore foot.

He needed only one week of matches to get back in form.

"Today I got the feeling that this is great tennis again," Federer said. *AP*

Triumphant Raikkonen powerless to stop Alonso

ISTANBUL—Even if Kimi Raikkonen wins every remaining race this season, he may be powerless to prevent Fernando Alonso from winning the Formula One title.

Sunday's inaugural Turkish Grand Prix raised the real possibility the McLaren driver could take more victories than his Renault rival yet fail to stop the Spaniard in his bid to inherit Michael Schumacher's crown.

McLaren can finish one-two in the last five races and still 24-year-old Alonso, with a 24-point lead, will be the sport's youngest champion if he finishes third in every one.

Raikkonen won on Sunday for scant reward, with Alonso finishing second. The Finn has five wins so far this year while Alonso has six.

While third overall and mathematically still in the reckoning, Schumacher is 40 points behind Alonso and has no chance after failing to finish Sunday's race.

Renault is also fighting McLaren for the constructors' championship and leads by just nine points.

Alonso is reaping the rewards of Renault's early season consistency while McLaren have the faster car but have missed endless opportunities.

They did so again at the new Istanbul circuit when Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya kissed goodbye to a certain one-two by spinning on the penultimate lap after being hit by Portuguese back marker Tiago Monteiro.

The last time McLaren finished 1-2 was in Austria in 2000. *Reuters*

Another Korean wins in LPGA

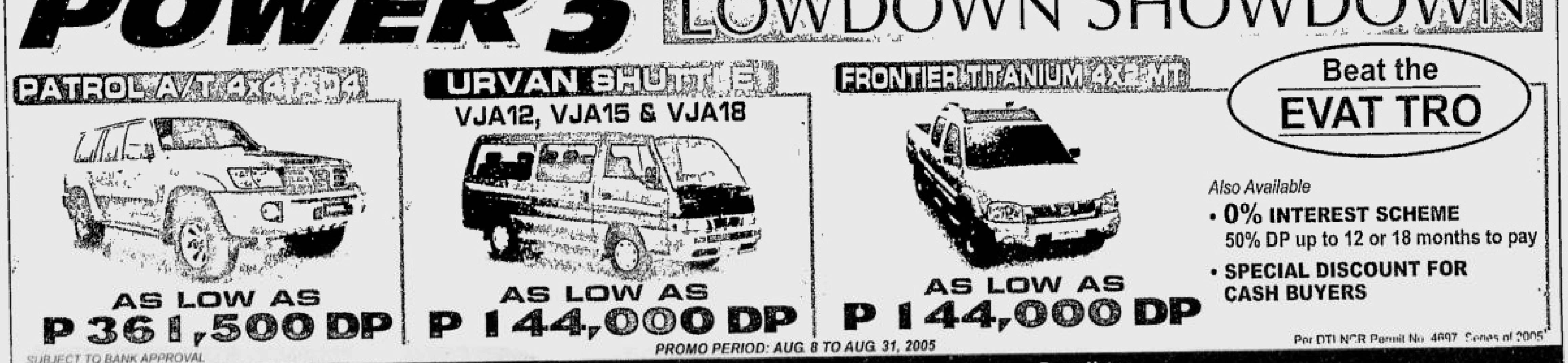
PORTLAND, Oregon—Kang Soo-yun carded a three-under-par 69 on Sunday to capture her first victory on the LPGA Tour, a four-shot triumph in the $1.4-million Safeway Classic.

The 29-year-old Kang became the ninth first-time winner on tour this year and the fifth South Korean to post her maiden win this year. She led a top-four finish by Koreans here.

Kang started the day with a three-shot lead and played in a group with compatriots Jeong Jang—the British Open champ—and Gloria Park.

Kang birdied four of the first seven holes to widen her lead to four. She finished at 201.

Jang carded a 70 for 11-under 205, one stroke better than Park, who finished with a 71. Joo Mi-kim was fourth with a 71 for 208. Another Korean, Sung Ah-yim, shot 72 and finished tied for fifth at 209 with veteran Beth Daniel (70). *AFP*



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NISSAN

Showcase for makers of the short narrative film

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Local TV broadcasters could learn from BBC

CINEMALAYA 2006 will be held from July 17 to 23, 2006. Its short narrative (20 minutes) category invites new filmmakers to submit synopses of digital movies that interpret the Filipino experience with fresh insight and artistic integrity.

Ten finalists will be selected, and the best short narrative film will receive a grant of P100,000. Participants have until Oct. 3 to submit a synopsis in Filipino or English, plus a brief resume.

The final works must be submitted in DVD format on Jan. 16, 2006, to the Film Development Council of the Philippines Office at J.M. Raymundo Bldg., 14 Balete Drive, New Manila, QC.

The short narrative films will be screened during the festival, and the winner will be announced on July 23. For more information, call 414-1559, 722-4482, 723-3648, 727-6893 or log on to www.filmdevcouncil.com.

Bravo! BBC World

On the cable TV news this past week, the big breaking and continuing story was the Israelis' unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza strip. This news event is fraught with complexities and contradictions that make it difficult to report on, especially as it happens live, in front of viewers' eyes.

We've caught all sorts of coverage of the historic and epic withdrawal, and many of them have been inadequate. They simply haven't been able to intelligently assimilate the many issues and consequences involved in Israel's stunning strategic move and the Palestinians' reaction to it. Of the few competent live reports we've watched, the best has been on the BBC World.

One field reporter was so good that he made the situation clear with no script to help him along.

Even more amazingly, he interspersed his backgrounders with interviews of people at the scene, and when he was confronted with a woman who spoke only French, he instantly shifted to French himself, simultaneously doing the interview and providing an instant English translation of the woman's answers.

What a brilliant field reporter! Would that some of our own news people were watching the BBC World coverage as well, so they would realize what they need to do to become truly competent broadcast journalists.

'Cinderella Man'

This early, keep an eye out for the new Russell Crowe starrer, "Cinderella Man," which is getting a lot of positive reactions from preview audiences abroad. Once again, Ron Howard directs Crowe in a unique drama that will most likely be noticed, come awards time next year. They first teamed up on "A Beautiful Mind," and it is hoped that "Cinderella Man" will match that earlier superlative achievement.

To make sure it does, the new film also carries over two other key components of the success of "A Beautiful Mind," producer Brian Grazer and writer Akiva Goldsman.

This time around, Crowe plays Depression era boxer James J. Braddock, a once promising heavyweight who, after a series of injuries and bad luck, finds himself on the scrap heap before making an inspiring comeback.

The film also stars Renee Zellweger as Braddock's wife Mae, and Paul Giamatti as his manager, Joe Gould.

Stand-up comics

On Sept. 3 at the BMW Autohaus Showroom in Libis, QC, the special treat is a stand-up comedy show, "Late Nite with BMW," featuring Tim Tayag and Allan Manalo, comics from San Francisco, California. Call 0917-8398233.

On Sept. 17 and 18, the show will be presented at Casino Filipino, Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City. Call 0920-9090468.

'Panaghoy sa Suba'

Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy sa Suba" will compete in the International Contest of the Brussels Film Festival, which is scheduled from Nov. 1 to 6.

There will also be a special screening of "Dekada '70" as a tribute to its director, Chito Roño.

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August 22 to 23

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MTRCB Rating: G

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY G - 1:45,4:15 MUST LOVE DOGS - PG13 6:30,8:60	SKY HIGH GP 1:35,3:45,5:55, 8:05,10:15	SKELETON KEY PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
BEWITCHED GP 12:55,3:15,5:35,7:55,10:15	GREAT RAID PG13 12:00,2:40,5:20,8:00	MUST LOVE DOGS PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50

2ND WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

The Spirits of the Mighty Xi'an Warriors are Unleashed by an Evil Force
From the action choreographer of "SHAOLIN SOCCER"
SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIORS

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171
1 (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOGS PG13
2 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY PG13
3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED GP
4 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH GP
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) THE GREAT RAID
2 (SDDS) BEWITCHED
3 (DTS) SHALIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
6 GOLD SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 GOLD (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOG
8 D' ANOTHERS
9 WEDDING CRASHERS
10 ICE PRINCESS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
2 (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOGS
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DTS) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 IF ONLY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 IF ONLY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 YEAR OF THE YAO
3 (DOLBY) STEALTH
4 (DTS) CRASH

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SKELETON KEY
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 MUST LOVE DOG
4 SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Blue Wave MAR_JUNTOH
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
2 (DOLBY) MUST LOVE DOG
3 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY
4 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
2 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
3 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
4 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005
5 OPENS AUGUST 31, 2005

Universal
(Manila) tel: 7334043 or 2470
1 RESERVED

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CELLULAR
2 SAHARA
3 KALAPATI
4 RESERVED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE GREAT RAID
5 SHALIN VS' STONE WARRIOR

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 THE GREAT RAID
3 SKELETON KEY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449348)
1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 WEDDING CRASHER

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994
1 SEX DRIVE
2 PUSANG GALA
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 D' ANOTHERS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 IF ONLY
4 THE EYE INFINITY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 IF ONLY
3 (DOLBY) THE EYE INFINITY
4 (DTS) CRASH

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 STEALTH
2 EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY) D' ANOTHERS
4 (DTS) THE ISLAND

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) GHOST HOUSE
2 PUKYUTAN
3 LAMAT
4 (DTS) UNLEASHED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 LAMAT
3 (DTS) IF ONLY
4 SKY HIGH (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 D' ANOTHERS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 EXTREMIST
2 FINAL DESTINATION
3 LAMAT
4 D' ANOTHERS

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) SHUT UP & KISS ME
2

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 MONSTER IN LAW
2 STEALTH

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 TAKAW TINGIN
2 THE GREAT RAID

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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MUST LOVE DOGS 2:10 / 4:40 / 7:10 / 9:40
SKELETON KEY 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
BEWITCHED 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:05 / 9:20
THE GREAT RAID 1:25 / 4:10 / 6:55 / 9:40
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY 1:00 / 3:30 / 6:00 / 8:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
MUST LOVE DOGS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
SKY HIGH 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
D' ANOTHERS 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
WEDDING CRASHERS 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
MGA PUSANG GALA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ D' ANOTHERS 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
❷ SKY HIGH 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
❸ MUST LOVE DOGS 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
❹ SHAOLIN vs STONE WARRIORS 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
❺ THE GREAT RAID 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 AWARDS *August 25, Thursday 8 pm*
CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE *August 26, Friday* OPENING GAMES
Aug 27 UST vs Adu *Jrs 9:30am* ADMU vs UE *Jrs 11:30am*
Sunday UST vs Adu *Srs 2pm* ADMU vs UE *Srs 4pm*
SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V *September 2, Friday 8pm*

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENT	***All Mall Fashionista Fair*** *ongoing until August 31. Thrifty meets trendy! Score the coolest looks while still going easy on your wallet.*
EXHIBIT	***Ford Libis Display*** *ongoing until August 28 at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	***Florsheim*** *(Ground Floor),* ***Duck Duck*** *(Ground Floor) and* ***Naturalizer*** *(Level 2) now open at Gateway Mall*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Enchanted evenings

'Cerrudo Classico!'

BIMBO Cerrudo's onstage demeanor was so casual, at times we felt we were being entertained in his living room.

We were at the Quisine (formerly Dream Bar, formerly Giraffe) at 6750.

The accomplished singer-stage actor was backed up by the RSVP String Ensemble—the better to fulfill the promise in the show's title: "Cerrudo Classico!"

Ambitious? The guy had the confidence, the vocal chops and the formal training to go "classical"! And he tackled the most challenging show stoppers performed by legendary Broadway male leads—from "West Side Story" to "Man of La Mancha"—with stunning skill and ease.

Cerrudo's interpretation of "Some Enchanted Evening" from "South Pacific" was, well, enchanting. Respectfully, he delivered each line and note as if he were singing the much-covered song for the first time.

SHOW TIME

His rendition of Ryan Cayabyab's "Salamin ng Buhay," originally recorded by Basil Valdez, transfixed quite a few otherwise jaded (all right, noisy) members of the lounge audience.

Belting out Sinatra standards and Groban's Italian solos seemed par for the course for Cerrudo.

That's right, Italian! He could've been reading the menu of a pizzeria and still make incurable romantics hold on to every word.

Then he crossed gender lines with Barbra Streisand's "Papa Can You Hear Me/Piece of Sky medley from the film "Yentl."

The guy is so secure that he didn't need to embellish any song. He was gentle when needed and forceful when required; but most of all he was his dimply and dreamy self all throughout.

Adding to the swoon factor: This series of shows, Thursday nights until Nov. 10 at the Quisine, is for the benefit of various charitable organizations, including the White Cross Children's Home and Poon Bato Chapel.

Call 725-8691 or 0917-326-6358.

Bayani S. San Diego Jr.

Tonight

"Follies de Mwah!" at Club Mwah! Call 535-7943.

Marcy David Band at Bykes Café, Makati City. Call 750-0622.

Sitti Navarro at Manila Pavilion's Boulvar Lounge

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's

Bloomfields at Tavern on the Square

Velcro at Suburbia

Kearni and Jun Lacanienta at Dusit Hotel Nikko's Fiesta San Miguel

Battle of the Belles

From page A28

sensible. Maybe I'll go for a combination. But I'd rather have them as friends, not as lovers."

She knows the pitfalls of love too well. Jean's two kids (**Jennica**, 15, by former actor **Jigo Garcia**, and **Kotaro**, 3, by her Japanese ex) are love's rewards and life's all-year round birthday gifts for her. Happy birthday, sistah! It's not the men in our lives but the life in our men that counts!

What abortion?

I'M SURE **Phoemela Baranda** will just laugh off rumors that she recently had an abortion and that the baby was **Bernard Palanca**'s. Blame it on the diet that's working only too well for her. The supermodel is perpetually watching her figure.

That's the way it is in Pinoy show biz. When a star loses weight, people jump to conclusions. It's either abortion or drugs. It's this line of thinking that should be aborted.

New entertainment hub

A NEW entertainment hub that combines our rich fiesta tradition and cultural shows in a high-technology setting was recently unveiled in Manila's romance-filled district, Malate. The inauguration of Kimura-Vale building signals renewed enthusiasm in the live entertainment scene. It is located at 1971 Leon Guinto St., corner Quirino Avenue.

Kimura-Vale complex is a combination café-restaurant-bar and condotel owned and operated by former singer **Bobby Vale** and his wife **Chieko Kimura**.

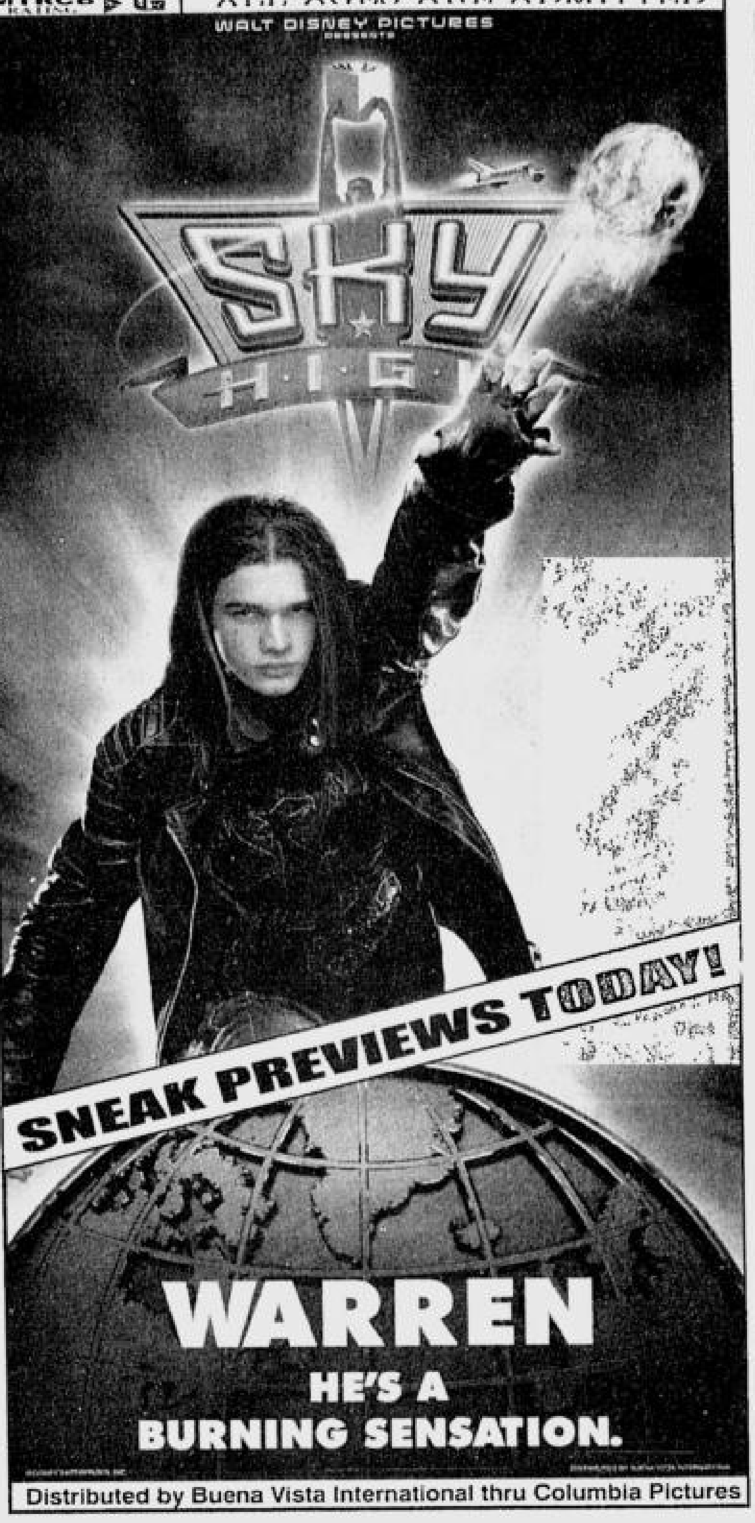
The Maku Hari is envisioned as a fusion restaurant that converts from a fine dining outlet to a late-night showplace. The hydraulic stage is said to be a first among local music lounges. And the Kape Café promises to be the next hot spot for yuppies and "caffeineatics." For reservations, call 536-6868, ask for **Junifer Abatayo** or **Louiesse Morales**.

Oasis in a mall

WHO would think that right smack in a jam-packed mall you can find an oasis? After you shop till you drop, visit Holistic Center (Megamall 5F). It's a different kind of spa because they have medical doctors as well as practitioners of traditional and alternative medicine. Avail of the ongoing third anniversary promo—50 percent discount on Diamond Peel, Buy 1-Take 1 on Body Peel. Try the Dr. Tan miracle detox cleansing tea. Call 634-7271 or 914-4376.

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

SUPER FUN, SUPER EXCITEMENT, SUPER HEROES!
OPENS AUGUST 31
MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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CINEMA 1 MUST LOVE DOGS PG13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
CINEMA 2 THE GREAT RAID PG13 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:50
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PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 SKELETON KEY PG13 11:10, 1:25, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:25
CINEMA 4 SKY HIGH - PG13 Advance Screening 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
CINEMA 5 MUST LOVE DOGS PG13 11:00, 1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM
September 2 & 3 MOJO FLY 6:30PM
Sept 15.22.23.24 JOAQUIN & FAITH CUNETA "ONE" 9PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX

① MUST LOVE DOGS
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

③ BEWITCHED
MTRCB GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

② THE SKELETON KEY
MTRCB PG-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

④ SKY HIGH
MTRCB GP
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE THE GREAT RAID
MTRCB PG-13 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00 LMF
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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1 SKELETON KEY 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
2 MUST LOVE DOGS 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3 BEWITCHED 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 GP
4 THE GREAT RAID 11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00 PG-13

CALL NOW 833-9999
EVENTS SCHEDULES PROMOS
NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA movietime

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
SKY HIGH

SNEAK PREVIEW A NEW CLASS OF HEROES.
Be the first to watch on August 22 and August 23 at the following branches:
North EDSA, Megamall, Manila, Pampanga
Sta. Mesa, Sucat, Southmall
San Lazaro, Fairview, Bacoor, Bicutan
Regular Showing on AUGUST 31 at SM Cinemas
MTRCB Rating: G (All Ages Admitted)

BIG MOVIES IN THE BIG SCREEN

In Ortigas,	SM Megamall Premiere Cinemas	5, 6, 10
In Q.C.	SM Sta. Mesa Premiere Cinemas	[illegible]
In Q.C.	SM North Edsa Premiere Cinemas	[illegible]
In Manila,	SM San Lazaro Premiere Cinemas	[illegible]
In Las Piñas,	SM Southmall Premiere Cinemas	[illegible]
In Cebu	SM Cebu Premiere Cinemas	[illegible]

Big Shows CENTER stage

Trumpets	Martin Nievera	Jasmine Trias	Christine Bellen's	Actor's Actors, INC & Little Boy Production Directed by Bart Guingona
THE LITTLE MERMAID	I SING FOR YOU	Fil-American Idol LIVE IN CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUEST: SOUTHBORDER	MGA KUWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG	ONCE ON THIS ISLAND
September 2005 SM Megamall Cinema 10	September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Southmall Cinema 3	September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Megamall Cinema 10	August 25-27 2005 September 1-3, 2005 10 am and 3 pm (with 7pm show on Saturday) SM Centerpoint Cinema 5	August 27, 2005 Saturday • 8:00 pm SM Theater 2 SM City Cebu

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium 633-8976
1 SKELETON KEY 01:55FS/02:55MF/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 MUST LOVE DOGS 01:40FS/02:10MF/04:25/06:40 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 STEALTH 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
2 THE ISLAND 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:30/04:50/07:10 09:25LFS/09:30LMF/11:45END
3 THE GREAT RAID 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:10LFS/09:30LFS/11:40END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 BELGIAN FILM FESTIVAL
PUSANG GALA
8 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
SKY HIGH
10 BEWITCHED
11 THE GREAT RAID
12 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
2 STEALTH
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE GREAT RAID
BEWITCHED
6 SKELETON KEY
SKY HIGH
8 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
9 MUST LOVE DOGS
10 THE EYE INFINITY
11 IF ONLY
12 PUSANG GALA

SM NORTH EDSA
SKELETON KEY
2 BEWITCHED
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 PUSANG GALA
6 MUST LOVE DOGS
7 SKY HIGH
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY MANILA
1 SKELETON KEY
2 BEWITCHED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 SKY HIGH
7 THE EYE INFINITY
8 IF ONLY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 WEDDING CRASHERS
11 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
12 PUSANG GALA

SM CITY STA MESA
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
7 PUSANG GALA
8 BEWITCHED
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
SKELETON KEY
SKY HIGH
THE GREAT RAID
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
BEWITCHED
THE EYE INFINITY
9 D' ANOTHERS
10 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM SAN LAZARO
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
BEWITCHED
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 MUST LOVE DOGS
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 SKY HIGH
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 MUST LOVE DOGS

SM CITY BICUTAN
THEGREAT RAID
SKY HIGH
MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKELETON KEY

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
WEDDING CRASHERS
STEALTH
CRASH
4 THE EYE INFINITY
SKY HIGH
6 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 STEALTH
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SHAOLIN vs. STONE WARRIOR
5 SKY HIGH
6 D' ANOTHERS
7 MUST LOVE DOGS
8 THE ISLAND

SM CITY DASMARINAS
ARAHAN
D' ANOTHERS
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY LUCENA
STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
YEAR OF THE YAO
4 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY BAGUIO
WEDDING CRASHERS
2 STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY MARILAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 SIN CITY

SM CITY BATANGAS
YEAR OF THE YAO
D' ANOTHERS
1 STEALTH
4 WEDDING CRASHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
STEALTH
2 THE ISLAND
THE GREAT RAID
4 IF ONLY
5 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
6 ARAHAN
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 CRASH

SM CITY ILOILO
THE EYE INFINITY
2 RESERVED
CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
D' ANOTHERS
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
STEALTH
RESERVED
8 THE MACHINIST

SM CITY DAVAO
1 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 ARAHAN
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 THE EYE INFINITY
5 WEDDING CRASHERS
6 BEWITCHED

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE MACHINIST
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 CRASH
4 STEALTH

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GALLERIA
632-9116

1 BEWITCHED • THX
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

2 THE GREAT RAID
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

3 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 WEDDING CRASHERS
12:15 2:45 5:15 7:45 10:00

5 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

6 MGA PUSANG GALA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

7 THE ISLAND
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

8 D' ANOTHERS
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

10 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:50

2 SHAOLIN VS. STONE WARRIOR
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10 10:05

3 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

4 D' ANOTHERS
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 THE GREAT RAID
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50

6 MGA PUSANG GALA
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:50

7 BEWITCHED
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

2 THE GREAT RAID
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

3 D' ANOTHERS
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

4 MUST LOVE DOGS
12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

5 STEALTH
1:05 3:35 6:15 9:00

6 BEWITCHED
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

7 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

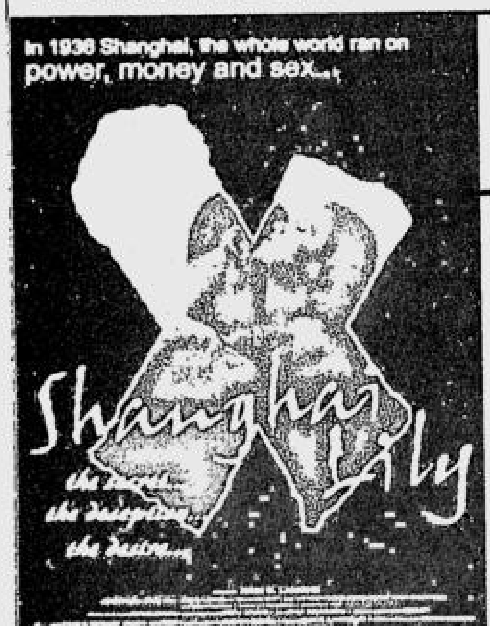
8 MGA PUSANG GALA
1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 STEALTH
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE GREAT RAID
4 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT

PIONEER
687-5378

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview
4 BEWITCHED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2 D' ANOTHERS
3 SIX
4 IF ONLY
5 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

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3 LAMAT
4 D' ANOTHERS

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2 ARAHAN
3 SA PAGITAN NG LANGIT
4 D' ANOTHERS

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1 CRASH
2 THE EYE INFINITY
3 IF ONLY
4 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

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2 SHANGHAI LILY
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview

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2 WEDDING CRASHERS
3 LAMAT
4 THE ISLAND
5 SKY HIGH Sneak Preview
6 CRASH

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2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
4 SHUT UP AND KISS ME
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 MONSTER-IN-LAW

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2 STEALTH
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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	2 THE LONGEST YARD	3 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	4 D' ANOTHERS		
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 VALIANT	2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	3 THX SKELETON KEY 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 BEWITCHED	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	6 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 7 THE LONGEST YARD
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 CINEMANILA SNEAK PREVIEW For screening schedule, call 750-4180 to 81	2 THE LONGEST YARD 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00				
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE LONGEST YARD 1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 MUST LOVE DOGS 1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 VALIANT 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX THE LONGEST YARD	2 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE	3 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	4 MUST LOVE DOGS	5 VALIANT	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 SKELETON KEY	2 BEWITCHED	3 IF ONLY	4 WEDDING CRASHERS		

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Laugh. Cry. Share the pants.
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CINEMANILA 2005 • ADVANCE SCREENING

August 24-31, 2005 • Greenbelt Cinema, Ayala Center

Manderlay *Lars Von Trier (Denmark/USA, 2005)*
The second installment in a trilogy USA - Land of Opportunities, that began with Dogville. The story of slavery in the American South.
Golden Palm-Nominated - Cannes 2005

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol Lu Chuan (China, 2004)
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies (Finland, 2005)*
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives.
FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award - Göteborg Filmfest 2005
Special Jury Prize - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer (USA/Norway, 2005)*
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei. *Directors' Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge (Sweden, 2003)*
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal.
Blue Angel, Silver Berlin Award - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan (Hong Kong, 1998)*
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman.
A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

Hawaii, Oslo *Erik Poppe (Denmark/Norway, 2004)*
The story of a handful of people who cross each other's path without necessarily knowing each other, during the hottest day of the year, in Oslo

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③ The Great Raid
④ The Sisterhood of Traveling Pants
⑤ The Truth about Love

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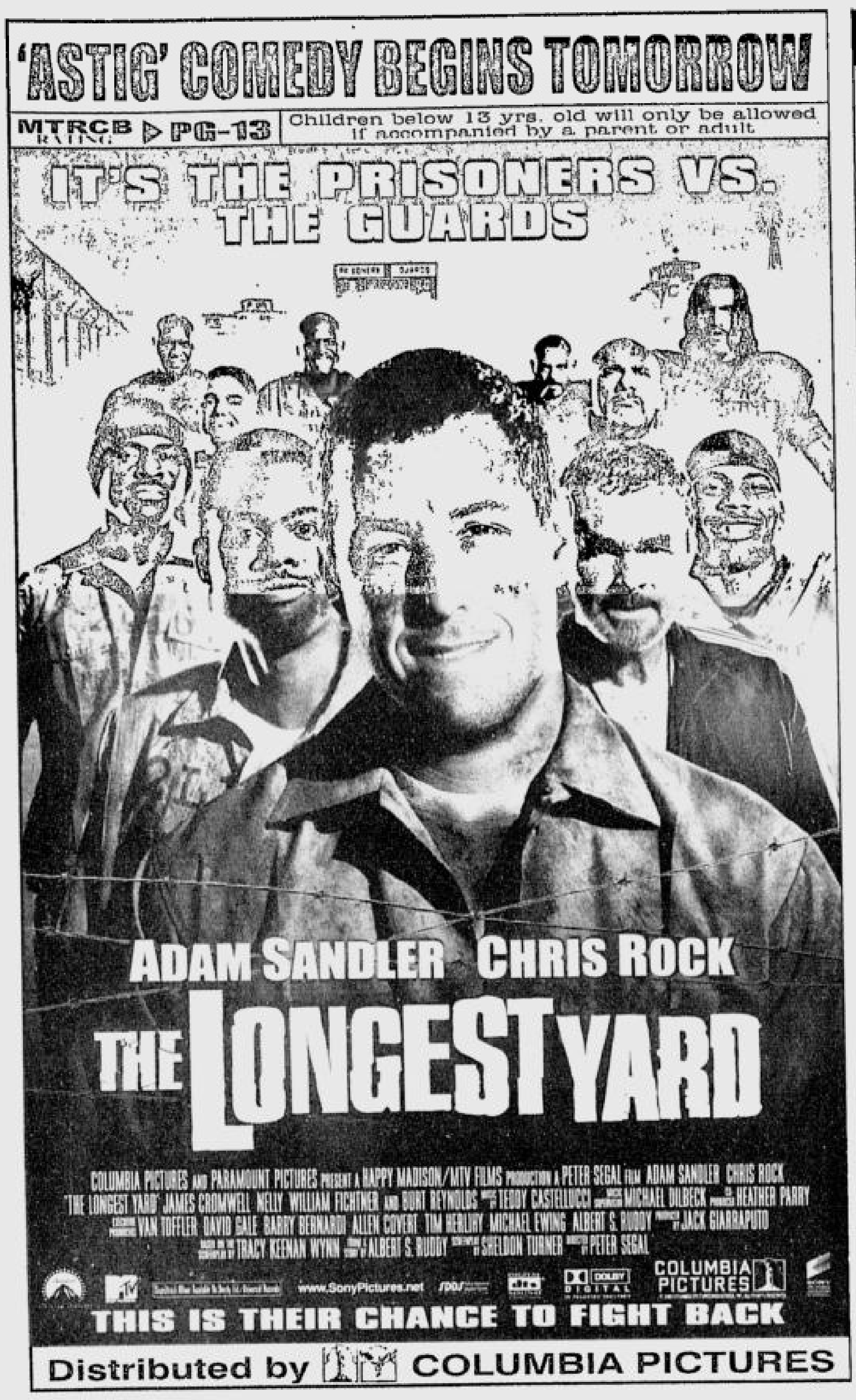
Per DTI-NCR Permit No A2-354 Series of 2005



'ASTIG' COMEDY BEGINS TOMORROW

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IT'S THE PRISONERS VS. THE GUARDS

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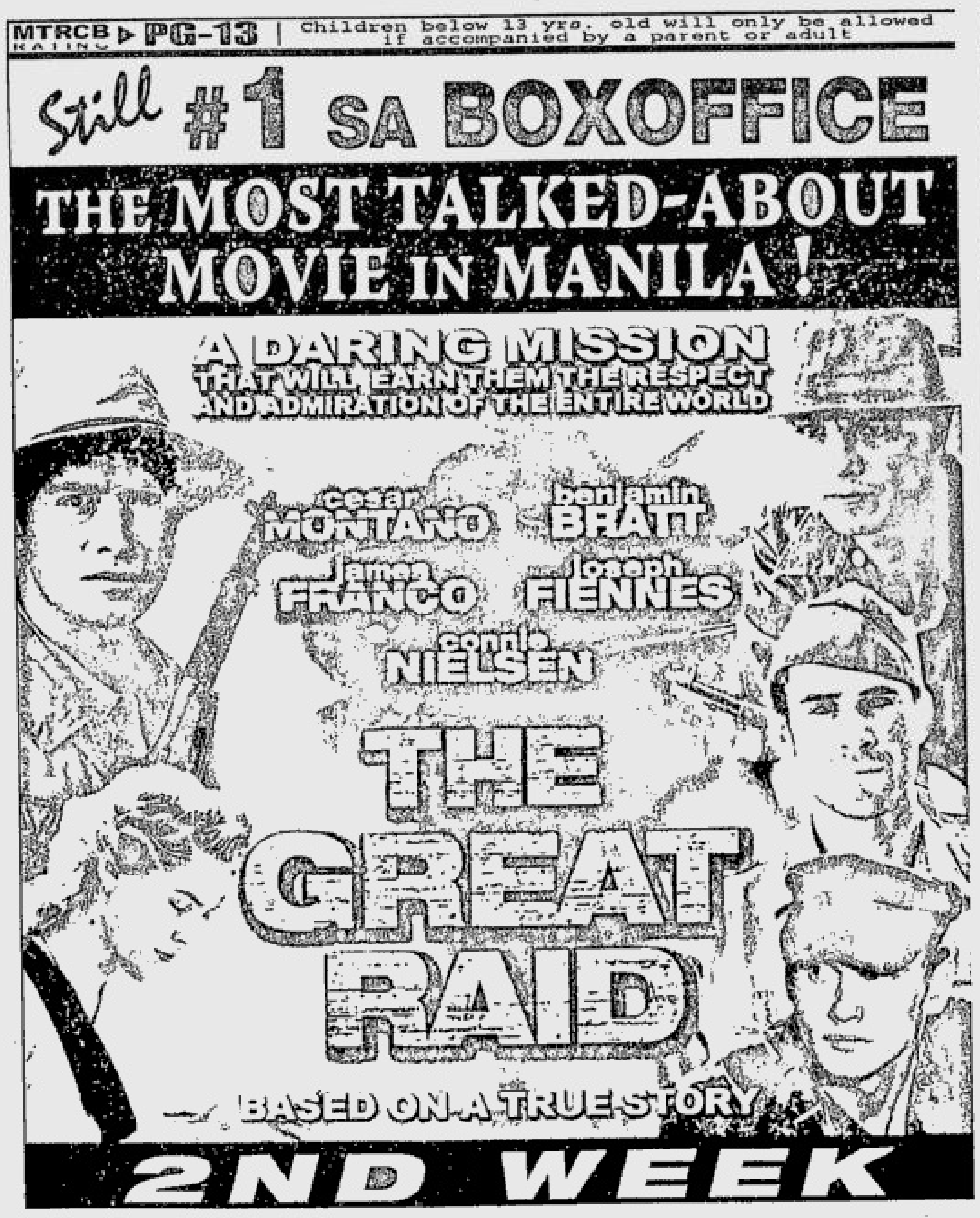

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ALAM MO BANG KAHIT ANG GOLDFISH AY MAY PUSO?

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Mga Pusang Gala

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"Lofty" the nerdy scholar
"Valiant" the brave undersized hero
"Bugsy" the con-man
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the truth about love

How far would you go to test your man?

How far would you go to keep him?

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"SHIVERS DOWN THE SPINE, A RACING HEART...ONE MUST SEE MOVIE"
-Yahoo Movies

FROM THE WRITER OF THE RING

THE SKELETON KEY

FEARING IS BELIEVING

Kate Hudson Gena Rowlands Peter Sarsgaard and John Hurt

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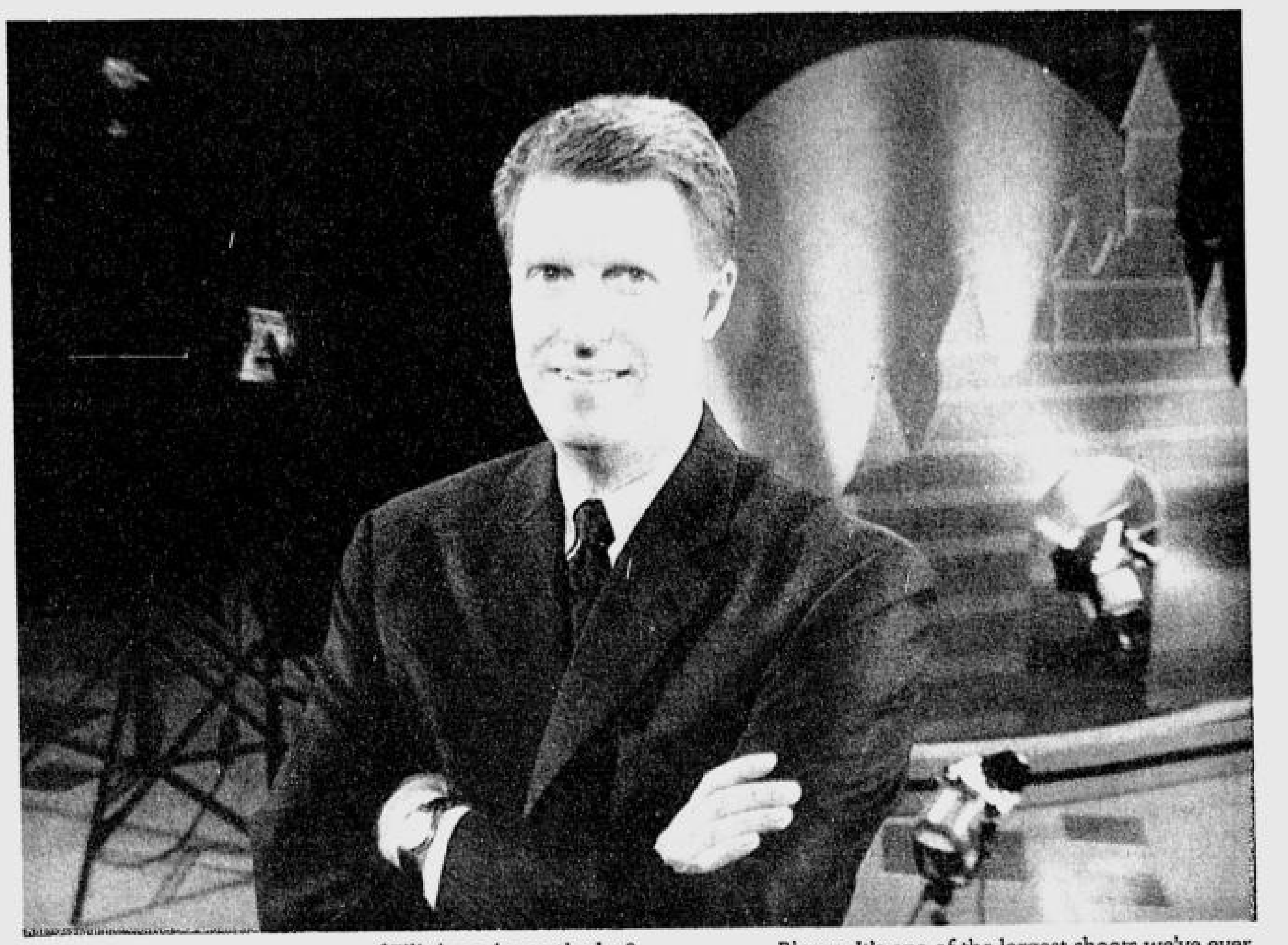
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE

Guess who's coming to Asia?

Top Walt Disney International exec Doug Miller would rather have regional heads for regional offices

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



DURING a whirlwind tour of Australia and Asia, Doug Miller, executive vice president and managing director of Walt Disney International (Asia Pacific), made a quick Manila stop to meet with the global giant's various business partners.

Accompanied by Raymund Miranda (Filipino managing director for Southeast Asia and Korea) and Lucien Harrington (vice president for marketing), Miller sat down with INQUIRER Entertainment and outlined Disney's grand plans for Asia in the next few years and beyond.

What makes the Asian market unique?

Growth, growth, growth! It is composed of economies that are bursting at the seams in terms of percentage growth, as well as of markets on the verge [of an economic explosion].

Although Asia is characterized by cultural and language differences, Disney strives to offer content and products that meet and expand across those cultures and languages.

Does it help that Disney itself is universal?

Mickey Mouse is a great example. He is known as Topolino in Italy. Donald Duck is Donald Bebe in Indonesia. Our cartoon characters easily become part of the fabric of a country.

How do you achieve localization?

First step is language. Last December, we launched Disney Channel in India using four languages—English, Telugu, Tamil and Hindi.

For a kid watching "Kim Possible" in Hindi, it's not dubbed. That's just Kim in Hindi.

In what other ways do you keep constantly in touch with local audiences?

For Asia, we created "Legends of the Ring of Fire," a four-minute animated series about local myths. It's produced in Singapore and we have featured Philippine legends, Indian myths, and Korean folklore, among others. "Legends" is one of [Raymund] Miranda's initiatives.

As you can see, localization is made possible by hiring managing directors from the region.

When I leave, I would like to see an Asian managing Walt Disney Asia.

How aggressive has Disney been in the region?

We have hired the best people—over 2,000 scattered across Asia in about 12 different offices this year alone.

In Hong Kong Disneyland, we've hired about 5,000 to 6,000 local talents. Quite a few are from the Philippines. Visitors will be seeing a lot of Asian faces when the park opens on Sept. 12.

We have to look at Disney as a whole. Creativity is a breathing, living, dynamic thing. You need to know, move and grow with your audience. Disney's advantage is its ability to reinvent itself. That is very important.

How do you make sure you meet the preferences of Filipinos, in particular?

The Philippine audience is very similar to [that of] the United States—it's English-speaking and we share the same strong family values.

The stage play "Beauty and the Beast" is a very good example of localization. It did very well! It was a Disney-licensed production mounted by Atlantis Productions, with a Philippine cast and directed by a Filipino, Bobby Garcia, who now works as "director for shows" in Hong Kong Disneyland.

Whether it's live entertainment, TV, CDs or movies, we have lots of new products. We are looking forward to big movies like "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" and "Pirates of the Caribbean 2."

The "Pirates" sequel is now in production in the Caribbean, with Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom. It's one of the largest shoots we've ever done, with over 200 days on location.

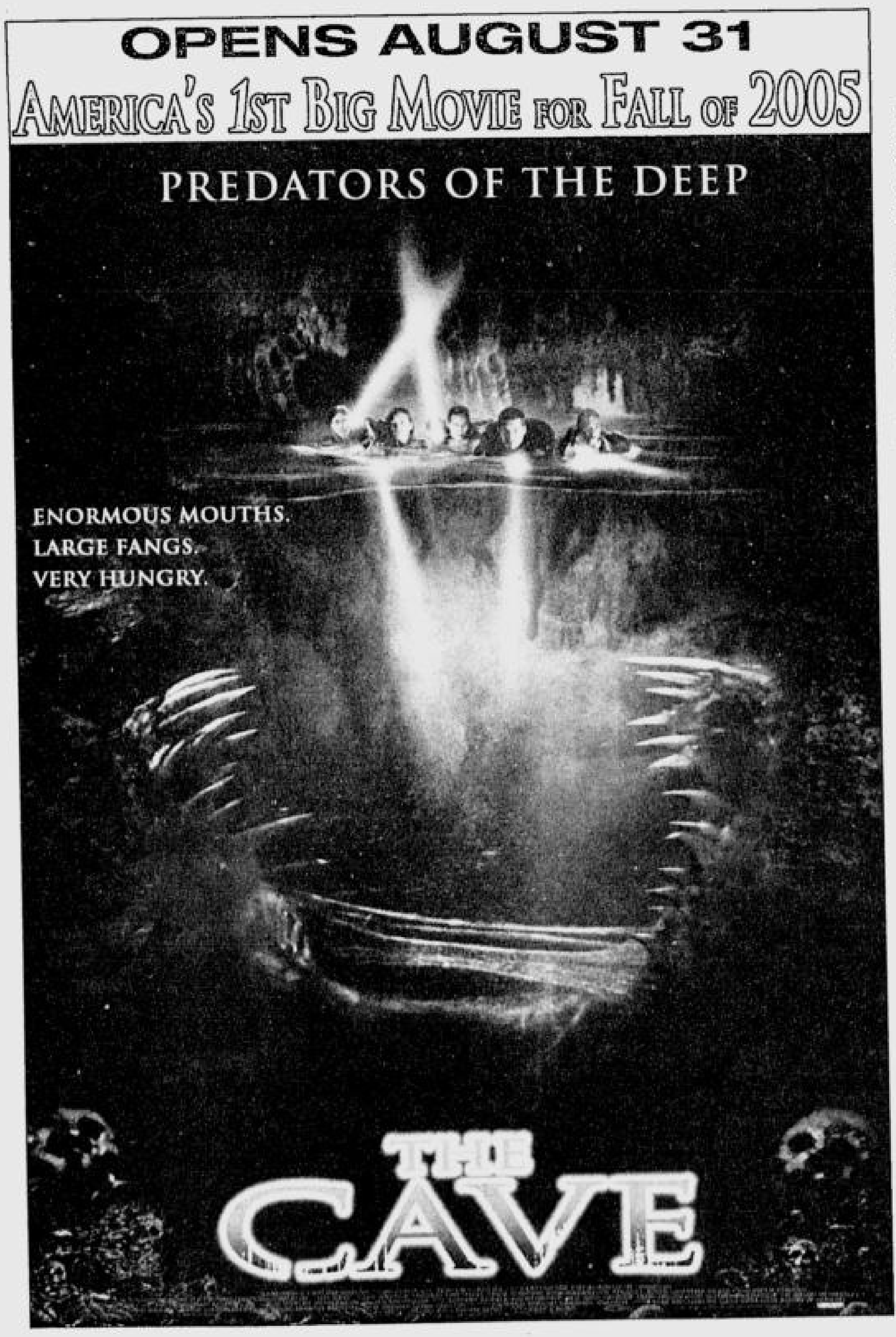
We are planning a big re-launch for The Muppets in 2006.

We're also coming out with "Chicken Little," a 3-D animated film.

Disney is also going into computer animation?

We've converted most, if not all, of our animation to computer-generated animation. We still do hand sketches for some backgrounds and storyboards, but "Chicken Little," which will open in the US in the holiday season, will be our first big one. "Cars," a Disney/Pixar feature film, is also coming up.

On the small screen, we have "Mickey Mouse Clubhouse," a computer-generated animation series, which will debut in March 2006.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AMERICA'S 1ST BIG MOVIE FOR FALL OF 2005
PREDATORS OF THE DEEP
ENORMOUS MOUTHS.
LARGE FANGS.
VERY HUNGRY.
THE CAVE

Battle of the belles

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MAUI Taylor got on the nerves of **Joyce Jimenez** during the Luzon-Visayas-Mindanao shoot of "Extra Challenge's" anniversary episode.

There were six pairs of challengers vying for the P2-M prize (P1M for each partner). Joyce and Maui were partners in the race. It was the first time they worked together.

An eyewitness told me that Maui acted like a brat during the entire shoot. She insisted on bringing along a personal assistant—something strictly prohibited—for the first leg of the race in Alabang. And during the Boracay shoot, she brought her cellphones—yet another violation of the show's rules. Maui also failed to show up during the "must" awarding rites at the end of the show in Ilocos.

Heated argument

The two sex goddesses had a heated argument. Joyce had flown all the way from Australia (where she is now finishing her studies) to join "Extra Challenge." She was disappointed that Maui wasn't being cooperative.

To make matters worse, Maui said at one point, "I'm not hungry for the P1M. I can earn that." Or words to that effect.

That really pissed Joyce off. Neither was she in it for the money, she said; it was the once-in-a-lifetime experience that she was after.

Perhaps the pressure just took its toll on Joyce and Maui? Their bodies have done the talking in countless pictorials. In "Extra Challenge" you'll see their pretty heads colliding.

Happy birthday!

"HAVE you checked the weather forecast from CNN lately? A storm of a thanksgiving birthday celebration is brewing up to blow your mind away this August…Storm signal # 4 JEAN arrives on Aug. 20, Saturday, 9 p.m., at the Carrera Bar. Leave your raincoats and umbrellas behind because this is one party where no one will get wet. Instead please be in your glitziest and most colorful outfits. The only thing pouring will be wine and booze plus dancing till the wee hours of the morning. Rainchecks are not welcome."

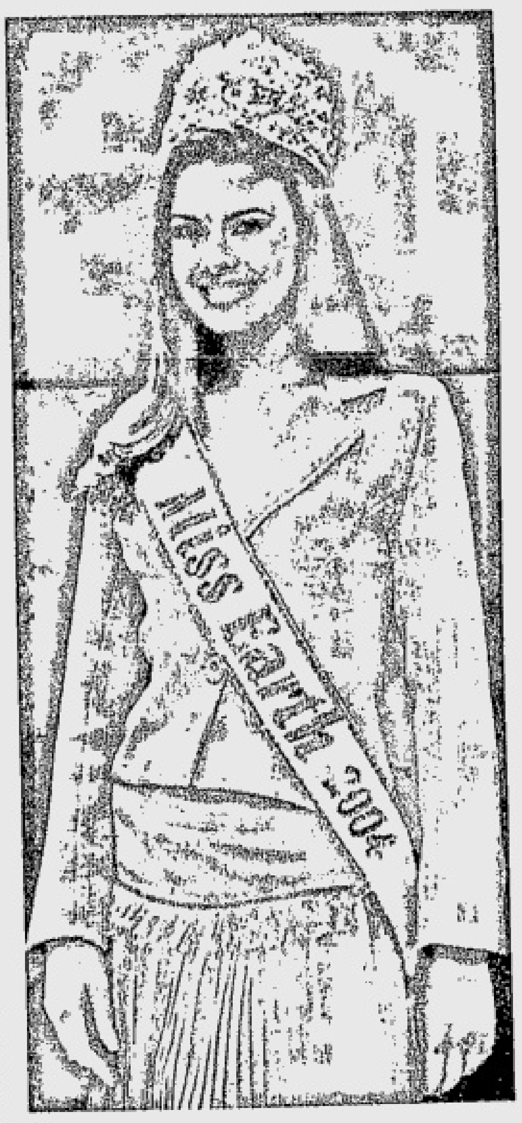
That was **Jean Garcia's** birthday invitation.

As I write, I'm looking forward to attend Jean's party. I will tell you about it in my next column. Earlier I teased the birthday girl, who was turning 36 (she does not look it though): "So it will be raining men at your party?" She laughed out loud—the kind of laughter that can only come from a woman who's been there and done that. Right now, she's between loves but she's not looking. She shrugs off rumors linking her to **Joey Marquez** and **Jomari Yllana**.

What if?

I asked her: "What if you had to choose between Joey and Jom?" She flashed her trademark bedimpled smile. "It's hard to say 'cause they are both fun to be with, and

BATTLE/ A25



Miss Earth forever?

'I WANT to be Miss Earth forever," said outgoing title holder Priscilla Meirelles of Brazil.

Alas, coronation night for the next Miss Earth is on Oct. 23.

Meirelles arrived in Manila recently to prepare for the event. She met media men at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino, the pageant's official residence.

The gorgeous beauty said she planned to study to become a plastic surgeon. The pageant airs on ABS-CBN. *Armin Adina*

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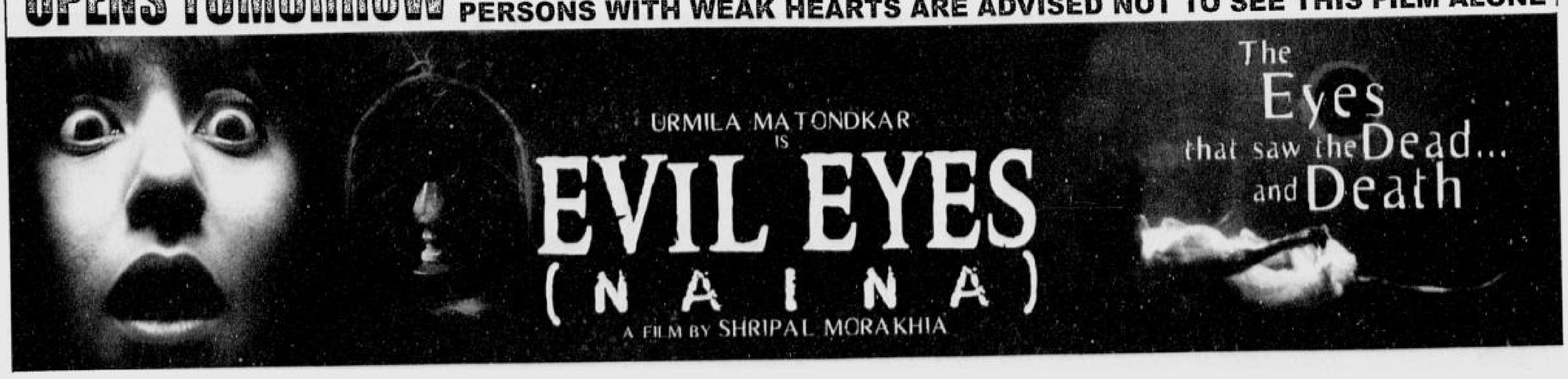
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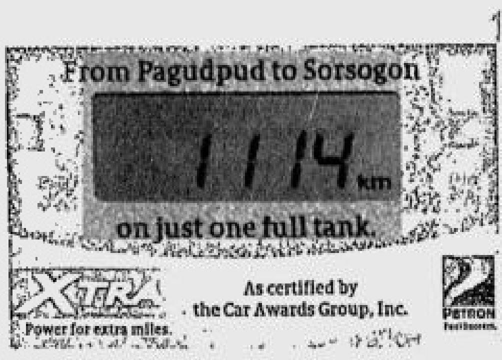
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'Knee-jerk' reactions to oil crisis hit

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE GOVERNMENT has proposed a slew of measures over the past few weeks in the hope of mitigating the effects of rising crude oil prices in the international market.

They sound good, but none of them make much sense to Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II.

"These are basically knee-jerk reactions on the part of the Executive," said the lawmaker, who also chairs the Senate's committee on economic affairs.

Roxas and other committee members rejected outright Palace overtures since they believe the proposals to solve the energy crisis won't work, and they don't merit the granting of additional powers.

These measures include the revival of Marcos-era energy conservation measures ("Enercon" in government speak), promoting the use of alternative fuels like coco bio-diesel, and radical ideas like special powers of Malacañang, and gasoline rationing. *(See Special Report on this page.)*

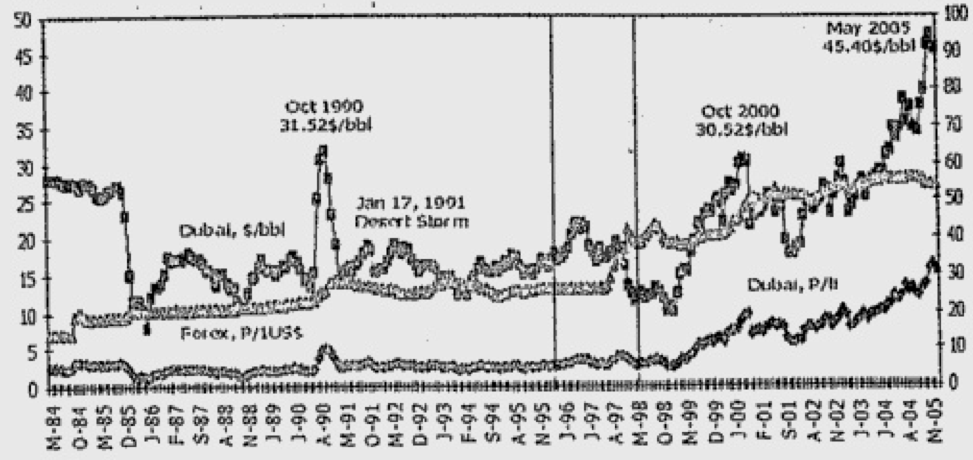
One particular proposal that the Department of Energy is pushing for is the passage of a national law akin to Batas Pambansa 73 of the 1980s that gave the President the power to help curb excessive oil and power consumption.

"You don't need emergency powers to tell mall operators to open one hour later or close one hour earlier," Roxas said in a briefing after his committee grilled energy officials on their lack of preparation to meet the crisis.

He also believes that extreme measures like rationing will not work, given the different nature of the current oil crisis from the ones experienced in

KNEE-JERK/ B4

DUBAI CRUDE PRICES/FOREX
Mar 1984 – May 2005



THE PESO cost of crude component in oil products increased over six times.

DRIVE VS SURGING CRUDE

Enercon takes center stage

By Abigail L. Ho

(Second of 2 parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

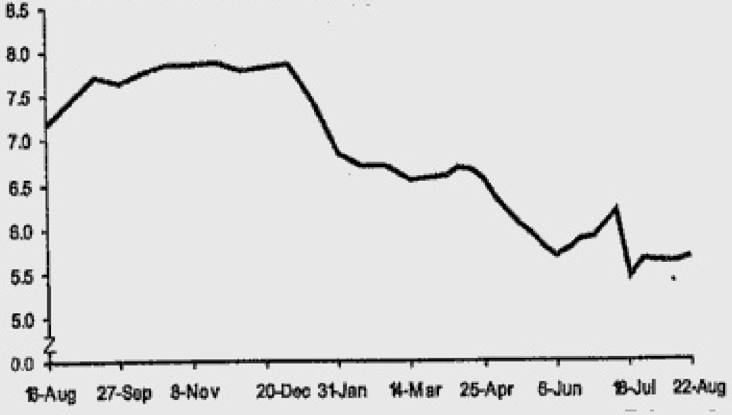
FOR MOST Filipinos, the virtue of frugality has been instilled since childhood. Much emphasis is placed on the importance of not wasting one's food, money and time. Now, more than ever, this virtue will be put to the ultimate test as the country faces a crisis that, if unchecked, can spell economic disaster.

Even acts as simple as turning off lights when not in use, shutting down air-conditioners earlier than usual and adopting better driving habits will do wonders in helping the country cope with the oil crisis that the whole world is now facing.

The Department of Energy has proposed several measures that will reduce the country's fuel consumption, based on different diesel price thresholds. Three scenarios have been used as basis for the measures, including the current situation with diesel retailing for an average of P29.76 a liter (at least during the time of the

ENERCON/ B4

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES
August 16, 2004 to August 22, 2005



T-bill rates inch up; 91-day yield at 5.662%

By Michelle V. Remo

TREASURY bill rates inched up across all maturities yesterday as banks preferred to wait for developments on the fiscal front.

The bellwether 91-day rate, used by banks as a benchmark in pricing loans, rose by a mere 4 basis points to 5.662 percent from 5.622 percent.

While tenders for the 91-day bills reached P3 billion, the auction committee accepted only P960 million worth of bids, even lower than the government's original debt offering of P2 billion for each maturity.

The average rate for the 182-day government securities rose to 7.592 percent, or 15.2 basis points higher than the previous week's 7.44 percent. The rate for the 364-day bills increased to 8.637 percent, or by 16.1 basis points, from 8.476 percent.

The Treasury, however, accepted P4 billion worth of bids for both the six-month and the one-year government securities. Officials explained that the rates at which they accepted the bids simply mirrored the movement of the rates in the secondary market.

"We just followed the behavior of the rates based on market conditions," said Finance Undersecretary Roberto Tan in a press briefing after the T-bill auctions yesterday.

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision any day from now on the fate of the VAT law, whether to declare some of its provision unconstitutional or to uphold its constitutionality. Economic officials, however, are confident the Supreme Court would rule in favor of the administration.

The VAT law, considered to be the government's key fiscal reform measure, has been suspended by the high tribunal since July 1 following petitions from opposition lawmakers and petroleum dealers. The law basically requires the expansion of the VAT to include oil and electricity, and gives the President a standby authority to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent next year.

Tan said the increase in treasury bill rates yesterday was also an indication that banks were keeping some of their cash in anticipation of the issuance of retail treasury bonds, which the government plans to issue in the next few days or weeks.

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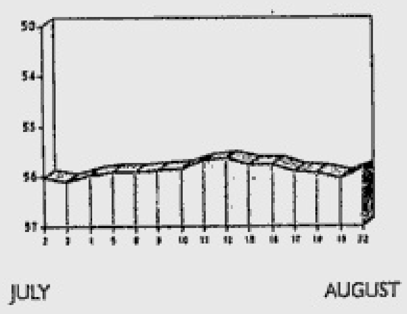

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2005

¥ 109.88 = $ 1

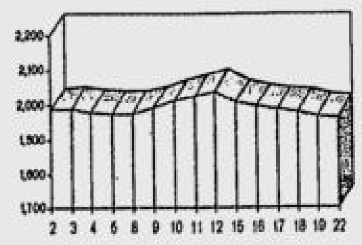
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 22, 2005

GOLD: $438.50-439.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 18, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close flat



SHARE prices closed flat, falling slightly for the sixth straight session on rising oil price worries, although investors chased bargains in late trade which limited the damage, dealers said.

They said investors stayed on the sidelines, concerned over the impact of high crude prices on profits and the economy, and ahead of the Supreme Court's expected decision this month on the legality of a key sales tax law.

The composite index dropped 2.96 points to 1,963.37. It moved between 1,949.78 and 1,968.70. Turnover was 411.68 million shares worth P926.17 million.

The all-shares index retreated 3.57 points to 1,191.72.

Losers outnumbered gainers 38 to 30, with 49 stocks unchanged.

"People are still waiting on what will happen to the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law. The government is on a 'damn if you do, damn if you don't' situation'," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

The government is hoping the new VAT law will cut its budget deficit but some analysts believe it may struggle to implement the measure at this time of rising oil prices.

The Supreme Court, which suspended the sales tax on July 1, is expected to rule on its constitutionality before the month ends.

"It is now a question on who should come first: is it the country or ourselves? If you raise the VAT, we're definitely in for an economic slowdown. But if not, the risk of a crisis similar to Argentina is not remote," Ravelas added.

Ron Rodrigo of Accord Capital Equities said bargain-hunting emerged in late session after the 1,950 support level for the main index proved tough to break.

AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

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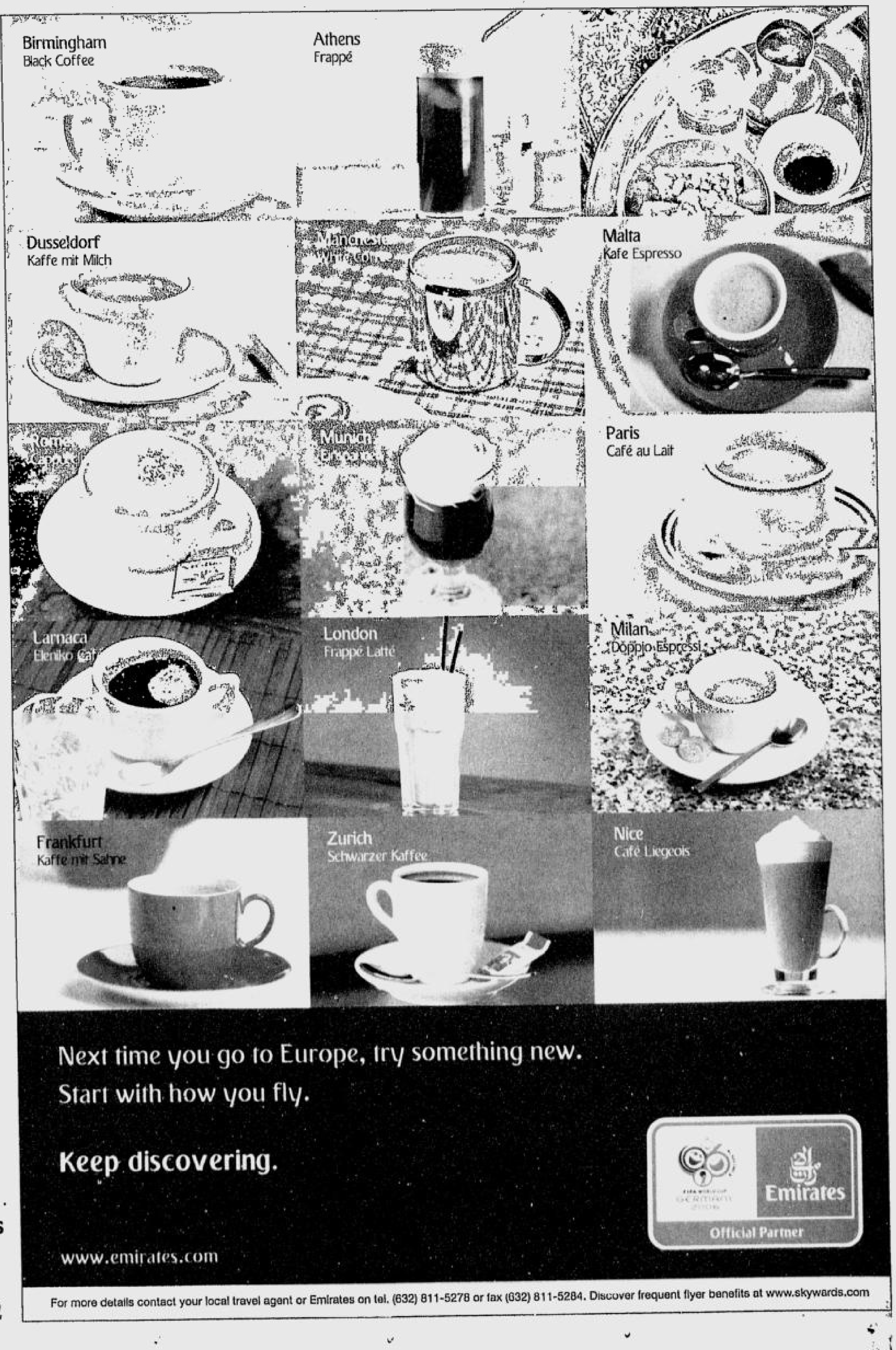

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Gov't sees high oil price hitting GDP growth

RECORD-HIGH oil prices have forced the government to scale down its economic growth target for 2005 to about 5 percent from its official target of 5.3 percent, Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said.

Neri, who was the economic planning chief before his appointment to the budget department last month, said the economy was expected to rebound next year with 6.3 percent growth fueled by higher spending on infrastructure and more stable oil prices.

The country's gross domestic product grew 6.1 percent last year.

"For this year, 5 percent would be a decent growth, although our minimum target was really 5.3 percent but given the extremely high oil prices now, it would be difficult to achieve that," Neri said.

The central bank has said the economy would likely expand 5.0 percent this year, but the socio-economic planning agency said last month that 5.3 percent growth was still achievable.

The government originally aimed for a GDP growth of 5.3 to 6.3 percent this year.

The government said last week it was seeking emergency powers from Congress to enable it to impose strict energy conservation measures and cushion the impact of record high oil prices on the economy.

The Philippines, whose oil import bill was $4.57 billion in 2004, imports nearly all of its oil requirements.

NERI

Neri said the government expects the Dubai crude price, which the Philippines uses as benchmark, would average around $55-56 per barrel in 2006, not far from current levels.

"For next year, we hope that oil prices will not go any higher and it will be a good basis now for growing further because we have a lot of infrastructure projects going full blast," Neri said.

He said the government might propose to Congress this week a national budget of P1.09 trillion, up 13 percent from this year's spending of about P963 billion.

Neri said actual spending this year would be higher than the P907.6 billion approved by Congress after the government settles its dues from previous years to suppliers.

Neri said the 2006 budget would include a 28-percent increase in infrastructure spending, a salary hike of about 6-8 percent for government employees, and an 8 percent rise in the education department's budget.

The government is aiming for a budget deficit of P180 billion or 3.4 percent of GDP this year, down from P187 billion or 3.9 percent of GDP in 2004.

The 2006 budget also assumes an inflation rate of 7.5 percent from an estimate of 7.9 to 8.0 percent this year and a foreign exchange rate of P55-57 to $1. *Reuters*

Benguet seeks partners for 3 projects

As gov't clears RP's first large-scale foreign-owned copper, gold venture

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

BENGUET Corp. is scouting for joint venture partners for three of its key mining projects, said Benguet president and chief executive officer Benjamin Philip Romualdez.

Romualdez said Benguet has already received preliminary offers from mining groups from Japan, China, India, Australia, England and Canada who were eyeing some of its projects.

These include the $500-million Kingking copper gold prospect in Eastern Mindanao, a nickel mine in Central Luzon and a copper mine in Northern Luzon.

Benguet is set to appoint a financial adviser that will determine the best joint venture partner for its projects.

Benguet is likewise in the middle of exploratory talks with a South Korean company for the development of a Surigao coal prospect in Surigao del Sur.

It is also in discussions with Eramen Minerals Inc. to co-develop a portion of its nickel property in Zambales.

In the meantime, the government has approved plans by a unit of Australian firm Climax Mining Ltd. to put its Didipio copper-gold project in Northern Philippines into commercial production.

The approval of the project's feasibility study marks the start of the country's first large-scale mining project fully funded by foreign investors.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said the plant, to be constructed by January, will have a capacity of 94,000 ounces of gold yearly and 10,000 tons of copper concentrate.

The Didipio mines have total ore resources of 120 million tons, with a minable reserve of 23.8 million tons, consisting of 0.61 percent copper and 1.6 gram per ton of gold.

In another development, Benguet Corp.'s bulk water project for Baguio City, meanwhile, showed significant progress following the Baguio Water District's declaration that Benguet was the lone bidder that met the project's terms of reference.

Benguet's consolidated net loss reached P105 million in the second quarter of the year, up significantly from P31.4 million in the same quarter last year.

BENGUET / B3

PSMT spending ₱350-400M to put up a PriceSmart in Cebu

THE OPERATOR of the local PriceSmart membership shopping stores is investing between P350 million and P400 million in a new warehouse in Cebu City.

William Go, chair of PSMT Philippine Inc., said the store would be the fifth PriceSmart warehouse in the country and the first outside Metro Manila.

Go said this formed part of the projects lined up by the new PSMT management.

"We have secured a 25-year lease of a 2.3-hectare property in Cebu City near the Ayala Center," he said.

Construction is scheduled to start in the first quarter of 2006 and the store is expected to be operational by the third quarter.

Go said PSMT, which is expected to report losses of some P400 million in the year that ends Aug. 31, had no plans of borrowing funds for the new project.

He said financing for the Cebu store would come from E-Class internal funds.

E-Class now owns 90 percent of PSMT while 10 percent remains with First Metro Investment Inc., the investment arm of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.

PSMT operates four warehouse clubs in the country, such as those in Fort Bonifacio, Quezon City, Alabang and the Manila Bay reclamation area in Parañaque City. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Ford stops making Lynx in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

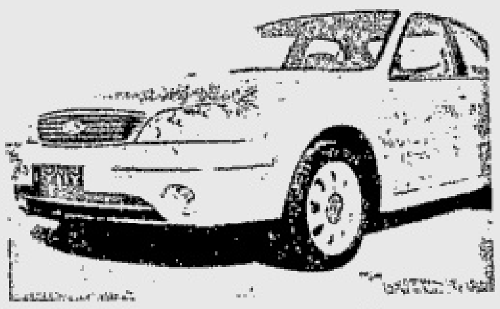
THE LOCAL unit of Ford Motor Co. has stopped producing the Ford Lynx in its Sta. Rosa plant since June due to weak demand in the region, according to a company official.

Ford Motor Philippines vice president Don Gelines said the country's only exporter of completely built vehicles would instead start making the new Ford Focus.

According to the firm's promotional materials, the Focus "looks and feels just like a European car" since it shares the same technology with the Jaguar, Aston Martin and Land Rover.

Gelines said the Lynx suffered from weak demand and sales in the domestic market as well as other markets in Southeast Asia.

The Lynx was the first car model that Ford assembled in Sta. Rosa since it took part in the government's automotive export program in 2002.


SOFT demand in the region made it uneconomical to produce the Lynx in RP.

Also producing Escape, Tribute and Mazda 3 models, Ford has exported a total of 30,000 vehicle units as of last April.

Gelines said the Lynx, which comes in 2-liter and 1.6-liter variants, will now be produced and sold only in Taiwan where the 500,000-unit market could make production economical.

The Sta. Rosa facility would be Ford's regional manufacturing base for the Focus, which has been in the market for three years.

The company hopes to sell at least a thousand units of Focus units for the rest of 2005 and about 3,000 units in 2006.

The 1.8-lited Focus is priced from P919,000 to P939,000 per unit.

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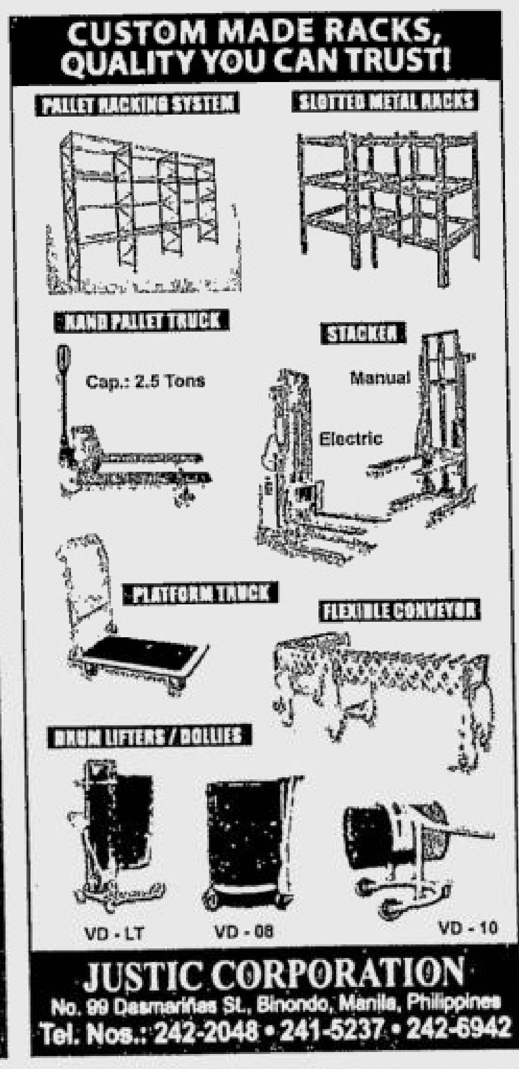
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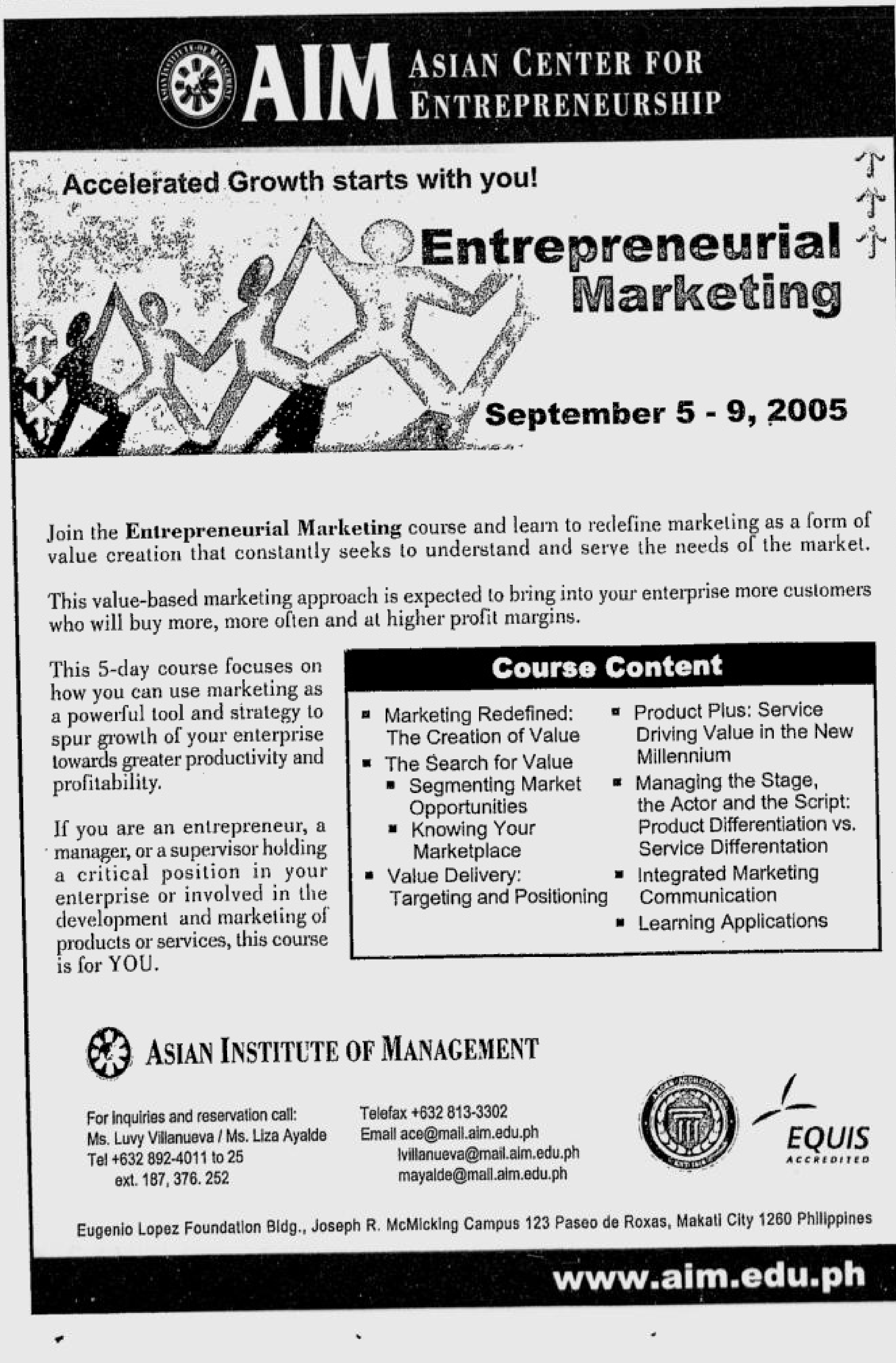
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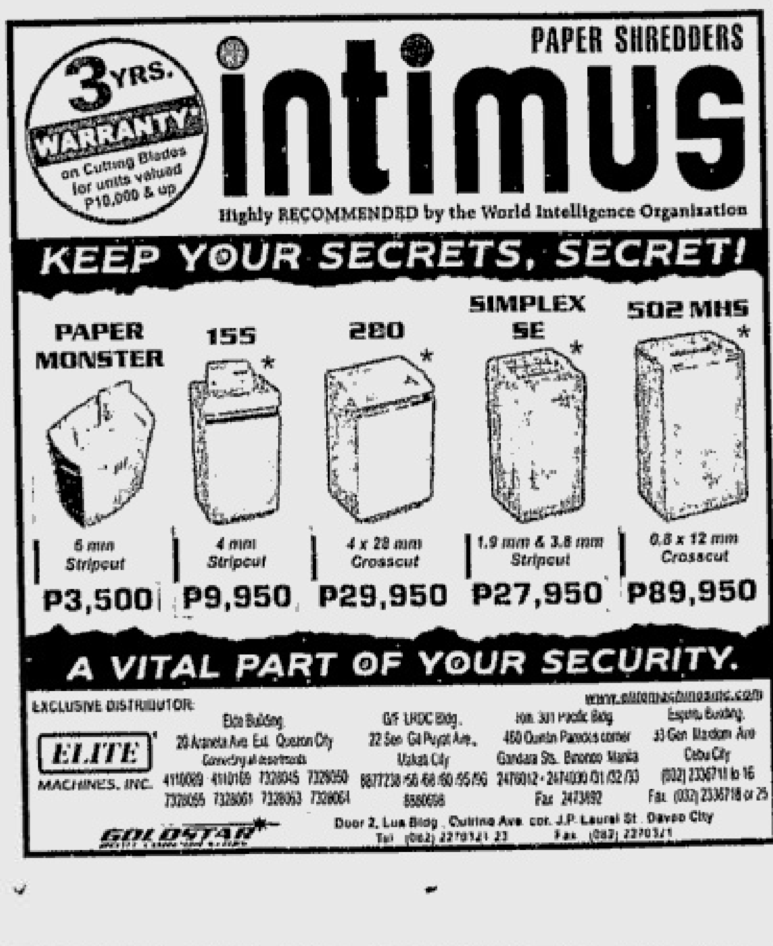
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Benguet seeks partners . . .

From page B2

For the six-month period ending June, net losses hit P153 million from P102 million in the same period last year.

The Masinloc chromite operation incurred a net loss of P6.5 million in the second quarter from net earnings of P800,000 in the same period last year. *With a report from Reuters, Christine A. Gaylican*

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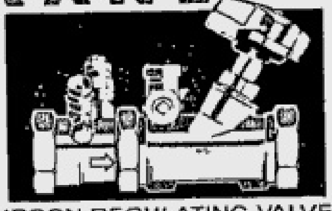

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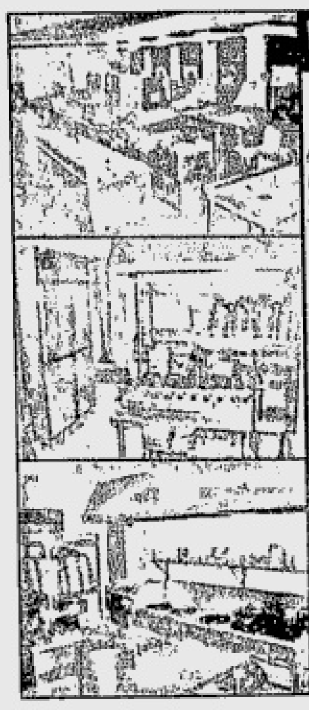

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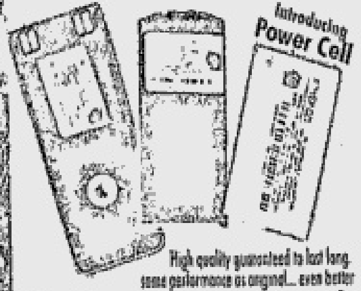

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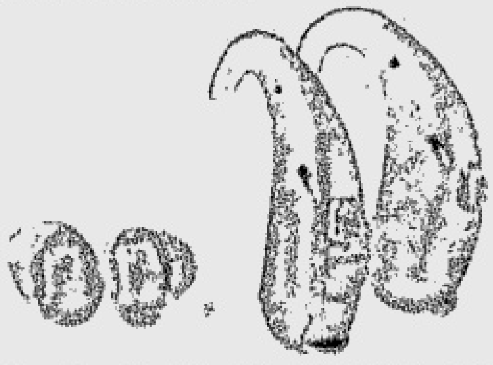

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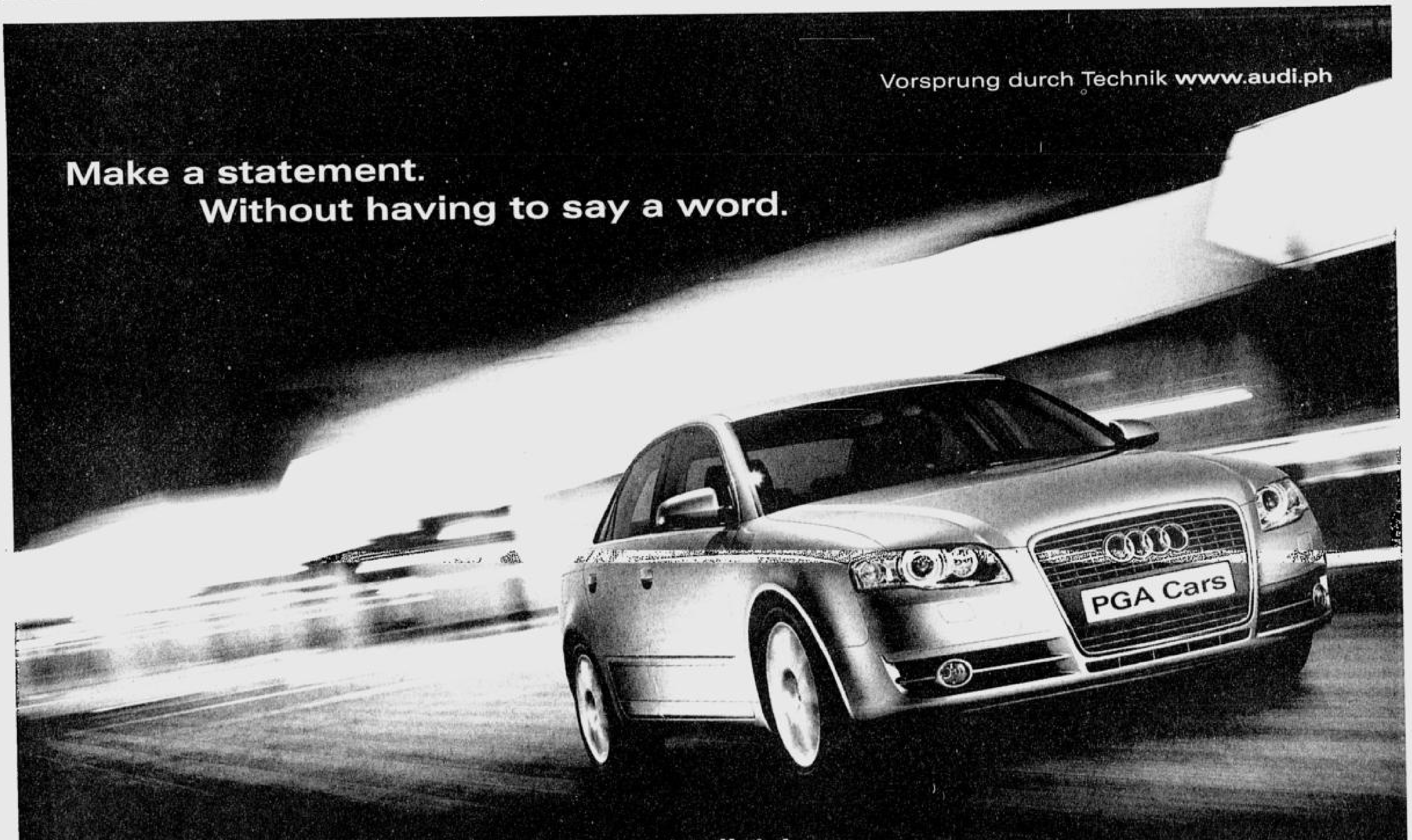
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Waiting for the Supreme Court

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I AM HAVING a problem with my kidneys, which are very painful, so I am not in the mood for writing jokes. So today, just one.

A pregnant woman suffered a head injury that sent her into a coma for six months. During this time, she gave birth to twins, one girl and one boy, but as her husband was abroad, it was left to her retarded brother to name them.

With trepidation, she asked the nurse what he had christened them. He called the girl Denise. "Well, that's okay. It is a nice name. What about the boy?" "He called him Denephew."

Since I wrote two weeks ago that the market was topping out, it has been falling steadily and last week, saw it decline every day.

It was easy to predict this in advance because the degree of risk was at its maximum of 100. The only way it could go was down. Now, of course, it is much lower and is within the BUY zone, though it has not as yet given a BUY signal. Still, it could come at any time and there are two stocks that look interesting.

The record crude oil price of over $67 a barrel is threatening a global slowdown so all Asian and European markets have been affected. It has been calculated that if oil stays around its current level for a year, it could reduce the GDP of Asian countries by 1.5 percent.

Two top US investment houses, Merrill Lynch and Goldman Sachs, were pessimistic about the future of oil prices with the latter predicting $68 a barrel. This not only sent all Asian stock markets lower, but also the currencies. The peso is close to 56 again, and every $10 rise in oil adds $1.26 billion to our import bill.

No wonder the government is trying to institute energy-saving measures.

With foreign brokers no longer net buyers but rather neutral, the PHISIX has been declining without a pause. The only good thing is that volume has also been slowing down so that the fall is not due to any great selling pressure, merely to lack of interest by local investors. On Thursday and Friday last week, gross turnover fell to P500 million and net turnover (excluding cross sales) dropped to P308 million. This is the lowest figure for a long time.

The dividend season is largely over and most companies reported good results except for GLOBE and FLI. After the results are out, there is a tendency for the market to drift on waning interest and that is what is happening now. Where the index goes from here depends on the decision of the Supreme Court.

As I wrote last week, its duty is to decide whether the expanded Value Added Tax, passed in May, is constitutional. The impact on the economy is not its responsibility.

I am surprised that everyone is taking it for granted that passing it is merely a formality. I would have thought the reversing a 13-2 vote would be quite difficult, as six judges would have to change their view.

Let us examine the three possible scenarios and their impact on the stock market.

a) They pass the VAT without any alterations.

Finance Secretary Gary TEVES and his team will be delighted because they will be able to reduce substantially the budget deficit in 2006 and it might even be possible to eliminate it eventually. The PHISIX will jump, possibly as much as 50 points in one day. After the initial euphoria wears off, investors will realize that the cost of living is going to rise considerably.

Gasoline will go up about P3 a liter on top of further increases in the pipeline. The government will soften the blow to some extent by lowering or abolishing the excise tax. Electricity bills will rise 10 percent and a number of items previously exempt from VAT will now be included.

Next year, the VAT rate will rise to 12 percent, tax credits will be limited and companies will have to pay higher corporation tax for the three years from 2006 to 2008.

There will be further increases in bus, train and jeepney fares and food prices will also be higher because it has to be brought in from the provinces to Manila. So consumer spending will be reduced and company results next year will probably be lower. So, if there is a sharp rally of 100 points or more, SELL into it because it will not last.

b) The VAT is modified to exclude the 2 percent increase next year, and this is thrown back to Congress, which probably won't accept the responsibility of passing it.

The 2 percent accounts for the bulk of the tax so Finance Secretary TEVES will have a lot of work to do. Instead, he will tax soft drinks and text messages, which will be very unpopular and not bring in the revenue required. The stock market will probably not do anything dramatic.

c) The Supreme Court upholds the TRO.

The Philippines will almost certainly be downgraded, the peso will weaken and the stock market will fall further. After the decline—possibly a substantial one—investors will return to the market on relief that the cost of living will not rise so dramatically. Imports such as oil, medicine and other necessities will rise a bit because of the weak peso.

So what should you do now, assuming you did not follow my SELL signal two weeks ago? It is pure guesswork as to how the Supreme Court will decide, so either you act now in anticipation or you simply await its verdict. I am sorry that I can't be more helpful, but we should know fairly soon.

FH goes ex rights on the 26th of August, so Thursday is the last day you can buy and be entitled to the new shares at P1. On Friday, it will be ex rights and there should be a price adjustment.

The NIKKEI has been rising as the Japanese economy appears at long last to be emerging from a long period of deflation but we have had false starts before.

If Prime Minister Koizumi is reelected, he will privatize the post office. This will mean a loss of jobs but will increase efficiency of the economy.

When the UK denationalized the steel industry, telephone companies, the aircraft industry etc., it was the beginning of a prolonged economic boom that kept the Conservative government in power for three terms. I believe that if Koizumi is allowed to go ahead, it will be the start of a permanent recovery in Japan. The Yen is currently the most attractive currency.

Enercon takes center stage

From page B1

formulation of the measures last month), Scenario 1 with diesel at P40 a liter and Scenario 2 with diesel at P50 a liter.

Ten measures have even been recommended for accelerated implementation. These are expected to cut the country's fuel consumption by 1.34 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent or savings of close to P4.1 billion a year.

Among the measures being recommended for accelerated implementation are the setting of temperature levels of mall air-conditioning at 25 degrees, using neon signs only from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., reducing mall hours by an hour a day, limiting the operating hours of gasoline stations, boosting the import tariff on gas-guzzlers, strictly implementing a speed limit of 80 kilometers an hour on highways, banning night golf, installing power capacitors in government buildings, conducting an energy audit of commercial and industrial establishments and enhancing the implementation of energy efficiency programs across all sectors.

Reducing mall hours by an hour a day, for example, will already cut the country's fuel requirements by 49,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent a year, resulting in corresponding savings of P147 million. Setting the temperature level of mall air-conditioners at 25 degrees, on the other hand, will save 149,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent or P450.8 million.

Enhancing the implementation of energy efficiency programs in the industrial, commercial and transport sectors, however, will result in the biggest savings among the 10 recommended measures at 881,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent valued at P2.7 billion a year.

While these measures are still recommendatory in nature and are still subject for discussion and negotiation with the concerned parties, some have either gotten industry nod or are now being processed for possible implementation.

The DOE has signed a memorandum of agreement with oil firms on the shortened operating hours for their service stations. Gas stations not located in traffic-heavy thoroughfares will close from midnight to 4 a.m. to save on electricity and fuel.

Also, the DOE is now working closely with Manila Electric Co. and other power distributors for the implementation of a Power Factor Improvement Program in government agencies. Under this program, power factor equipment or capacitors will be installed in government offices to boost electricity consumption efficiency.

Initial DOE estimates show that close to P34 million or 11,000 barrels of fuel oil equivalent in savings will be generated each year if the program will be adopted in 152 government agencies all over the country.

More drastic measures

But as world oil prices continue to soar, even the measures recommended for accelerated implementation do not seem to be enough for the government as the country's economic managers suggested that President Macapagal-Arroyo be given emergency powers similar to that given to President Fidel Ramos at the height of the energy crisis in the early '90s.

Coupled with the granting of emergency powers is the proposed issuance of a law similar to Batas Pambansa 73, or An Act to Further Promote Energy Conservation and for Other Purposes, which took effect from 1980 to 1985 during the tailend of the Marcos regime.

Taking its cue from this old law, the proposed new law will give government agencies the power to impose mandatory energy conservation measures, including fuel rationing during periods of tight supply. Other measures being considered include requiring industrial, commercial and transport firms to collect waste oil for recycling, as well as requiring the use of thermostats that will have to be set at specific temperature levels.

Also, the Department of Labor and Employment may impose staggered working hours in industrial and commercial establishments or fix the number of working days in a week for all businesses. The Department of Trade and Industry, on the other hand, may restrict the number of hours that business and entertainment establishments may operate.

Lawmakers met this suggestion with mixed reactions. Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago expressed support for the issuance of such a law, provided that proper safeguards would be put in place and that it would not go beyond a specific period of implementation. Opposition Sen. Joker Arroyo, on the other hand, said Ms Arroyo did not deserve to be granted emergency powers and that there was no need for a Martial Law issuance to be revived.

Not to be deterred, Ms Arroyo last week ordered government agencies, state-run corporations and universities to implement a gas-rationing scheme to enable them to reduce their monthly fuel consumption by 10 percent. Under this mandate, the use of government vehicles would be restricted to essential activities and weekend travel on them would also be banned.

Outside of those emergency measures, the DOE's current scenario measures include the possibility of having color-coding schemes beyond Metro Manila and even "carless" days. These are all voluntary, however, and will not be forced on people. Mandatory measures under this scenario are mostly targeted at government agencies, specially National Power Corp. Ms Arroyo's order last week is actually one of the mandatory measures under this scenario.

According to the DOE, implementing all the voluntary and mandatory measures under the current price scenario will result in a fuel consumption reduction of 25.05 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent or savings of P75.14 billion a year.

When diesel prices reach P40 a liter, additional and even more drastic measures will be implemented, expanding all location-specific energy conservation measures under the current scenario will be expanded to nationwide coverage.

Additional measures under this stage of the government's energy conservation program include the provision of a carpooling express lane, support for the use of FX taxis as an alternative to limited-occupancy cabs, encouragement of the use of liquefied petroleum gas and other alternative fuels as transport fuels, suspension of the 10 a.m.-3 p.m. "open window" provision in the color-coding scheme, and the implementation of a nine-day work cycle for government agencies and public schools.

If all 28 measures under this stage of the government's energy conservation plan are implemented, the country will be able to save 35.91 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent and P107.83 billion a year.

Should world prices continue their ascent and local diesel prices spike to as much as P50 a liter, more measures will be made mandatory, many of them requiring a drastic departure from some already established practices.

Government agencies and public schools will have to follow a four-day work cycle, similar to the scheme implemented last summer. In addition, an odd-even license plate fueling restriction system will take effect, color-coding scheme restrictions will be extended from just one day to two days, and power generation agencies will be required to use alternative and cheaper fuels.

Apart from these, interruptible power supply will be implemented in the Visayas and Mindanao grids and, like government agencies, industrial and commercial establishments will be required to implement measures that will enable them to achieve a 10-percent reduction in electricity consumption.

These measures are expected to generate savings of 42.23 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent or P126.78 billion in a year.

Beyond enercon

While these energy conservation measures are expected to ease the impact of soaring world oil prices on the country's economy, Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya says these are not enough. Long-term solutions are necessary.

For one, he says the country should put in place a National Petroleum Strategic Reserve by 2010 through one or a combination of the following: discovery of more oil reserves, investing in oil stockpiling infrastructure with a capacity of 30 to 45 days, granting concessions to a company that will convert the country's coal into fuels and extracting and developing the oil reserves of the Malampaya gas find.

A team from the US Department of Energy recommended an in-country oil stockpile with a capacity based on the International Energy Agency (IEA) criteria of 90 days of net imports, an accepted standard among Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) member-economies.

Looking at the country's oil imports and exports over the last five years, the US DOE team said the total size of the national stockpile should come up to 30 million barrels to achieve the IEA reserve criteria.

The composition of the Philippines Strategic Oil Stockpile should be as follows: 23.5 million barrels of crude oil, 5 million barrels of diesel fuel and 1.5 million barrels of liquefied petroleum gas.

But establishing a national oil stockpile will entail a huge investment: about $1 billion for a 30-million-barrel storage capacity. Investments which, Abaya says, are not being made and not even being committed right now.

"The problem of rising world oil prices and its crippling effect on our economy is far larger and disastrous than we ever expected. The programs presently in place are not responsive enough to solving the problems that lie ahead," he says. "The present political activities have not helped at all. The biggest national threat is before us now. Nothing less than acting as one nation can we tame the cancer of oil and avert an economic crash come 2008."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 22, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	162,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	51.5	51	51.5	656,600
China Banking Corp.	840	840	840	840	100
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.63	0.65	3,110,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	52	53.5	51.5	53	145,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	28	686,300
Philippine National Bank	40	40	39	39	35,600
Philippine Trust Co.	55	55	55	55	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	1,000
Security Bank Corp.	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	14,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2760	2770	2760	2770	270
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	34,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	140	142	50,600
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2005	2000	2005	910
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.5	14	13.5	14	40,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1	1	1	2,490,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	735	705	735	60,800
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	27,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	2,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.055	0.055	0.0525	0.055	7,000,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	1,280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1610	1610	1580	1585	277,810
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	690,000
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	7,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	6,700
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.75	23.75	331,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,318,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.25	3.3	1,680,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	279,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.66	235,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8	8	7.9	7.9	190,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	60,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	527,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	12,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32	32	32	32	253,100
Swift Food Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	90,000
San Miguel Corp. A	68	68.5	68	68.5	42,900
San Miguel Corp. B	98.5	99	98	99	299,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	900,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	3,000,000
Ayala Corp.	310	310	302.5	307.5	88,870
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	1,036,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	29,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	40,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.14	1.14	12,426,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	190,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.24	4,280,000
CADP Group Corp.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.21	560,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	150,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3	3.05	1,385,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	25,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	1,224,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45	44	44.5	347,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.0725	0.07	0.0725	2,000,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	28,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.36	782,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,560,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.21	0.225	1,060,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	20,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	221	214	217	383,250
South China Resources Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	50,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.17	600,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	800,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	74,470,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	690,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	7.7	7.7	5.5	5.8	14,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	230,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	595,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	13.75	14	13.75	14	190,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	4,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	3,379,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	4,090,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	1,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	4,655,000
City & Land Developers	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	11,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	6,081,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.88	0.88	0.85	0.85	200,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	120,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	13,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.5	734,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	440,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	2,060,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	11,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.91	3,350,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28	28	27.5	27.5	271,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	9,000,000
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.0075	90,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	70,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.36	0.36	270,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	100,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	15,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	270,000

August 22, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.821827745	1.000000	56.0070
Japan	Yen	0.007446	0.009060	0.5074
United Kingdom	Pound	1.476496	1.796600	100.6222
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105763	0.128692	7.2077
Switzerland	Franc	0.644975	0.784806	43.9546
Canada	Dollar	0.678972	0.826173	46.2715
Singapore	Dollar	0.491935	0.598587	33.5251
Australia	Dollar	0.617544	0.751428	42.0852
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.180088	2.652731	148.5715
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219154	0.266667	14.9352
Brunei	Dollar	0.490468	0.596801	33.4250
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000100	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.019896	0.024210	1.3559
UAE	Dirham	0.223766	0.272279	15.2495
Euro	Euro	1	1.216800	68.1493
Argentina	Peso	0.282901	0.344234	19.2795
India	Rupee	0.018884	0.022978	1.2869
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218252	0.265569	14.8737
Mexico	New Peso	0.076265	0.092799	5.1974
New Zealand	Dollar	0.572144	0.696185	38.9912
Korea	Won	0.000804	0.000978	0.0548
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025565	0.031108	1.7423

'Knee-jerk' . . .

From page B1

1971 and 1979.

Roxas knows whence he speaks since he previously headed the trade and industry department, which has the power to impose price controls on commodities that exhibit sharp spikes in prices or to deter profiteers.

"Rationing will work if we have a supply problem," he said. "This is not the case now. The problem is demand, not supply."

Indeed, most oil producing countries are pumping fuel out of the ground at near-capacity levels, only to see prices skyrocket due to rising demand from the booming economies of the United States, China and India.

Roxas believes that Filipino "ingenuity" will eventually allow consumers to get around any fuel rationing caps, through the use of fake rationing cards, for example.

Instead of proposing remedial measures, the lawmaker told the energy officials to be more proactive in its policies. "We need them to tell us, for example, how high they believe prices will go so that we can plan our budget properly," he said. He pointed out that energy officials have been negligent in advising policymakers on the dangers of rising crude oil prices until it was too late.

Roxas also lamented the fact that private sector lobby groups like Raul Concepcion's Consumer and Oil Price Watch have taken up the de facto role of advancing consumers' interests—a task the Oil Deregulation Law gives to the Energy Department.

"We want the energy department to use its powers to make sure that the consumers are not being taken advantage of by these oil firms," instead of sounding like apologists for the local oil industry, he said.

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Examination Time Slots:	7:30 AM and 1:00 PM of each day
Examination Venue:	**Meralco Foundation Inc.** MFI Building, Ortigas Avenue Pasig City, Metro Manila
Examination Requirements:	Come with Valid ID, Updated Resumé/ Biodata & Photocopy of Transcript of Records

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSA Y. ALVAREZ has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 239, Page No 48, Book No. XVIII, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Robert Michael A. Natividad of San Mateo, Rizal.
(PDI-Aug. 23, 30 & Sept. 6, 2005)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF THE BASEMENT, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
b. Partnership duly organized under laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
c. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and

Bidders/contractors should have a valid and current License and Registration issued by PCAB.

License	at least "Category C"
Registration	at least "SMALL B"

Bidder should have a similar completed contract within a period of five (5) years and must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget of the contract to be bid.

The Approved Budget for the Contract is Php 2,481,682.00

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be issued starting **August 17 to 26, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon presentation of PCAB license and a payment of non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).**

Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent and opening of the Eligibility Envelope shall be on **August 26, 10:00 a.m.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room 6th Floor, SEC Building.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained by the eligible bidder starting **August 31 to September 7, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00).** For further details, please contact Asst. Director Romeo G. Daung at Tel. No. 727-3320.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **September 7, 10:00 A.M.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD), Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of Technical and Price Proposal will be on **September 21, 10:00 A.M.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor SEC Building. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents will no longer be accepted.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOSE AQUINO
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - August 16 & 23, 2005)

POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("*PSALM*") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("*Committee*") invites interested parties to participate in and bid in the Second Round of Bidding for the privatization of the following:

Plant Equipment, Components, Auxiliaries and Accessories of the Bataan Thermal Plant located at Limay, Bataan

(the "*Asset*"). The Asset is being sold on an "*as is where is*" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a Letter of Interest ("*LOI*") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative, and with the latest audited financial statement attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, not later than 5:00 p.m. on August 30, 2005 (the "*LOI Submission Deadline*"). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $ 500.00) (the "*Participation Fee*"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation Fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of August 31, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the privatization of the Asset.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) from August 22, 2005 until August 31, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. (the "*Deadline*") at the PSALM Office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in the privatization of the Asset.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Due Diligence : August 26 – September 28, 2005
Pre-bid Conference : September 5, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM : September 30, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security in the form of an irrevocable standby letter of credit. The details of the bid security, including the amount are contained in the bidding procedures. The winning bidder must substitute its bid security with a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. Other details on the privatization of the Asset are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Frolian A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the privatization process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the privatization process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without giving prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

(Sgd.) Raphael Perpetuo M. Lotilla
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--August 22, 23 and 24, 2005)

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INVITATION to PREQUALIFY JANITORIAL SERVICES

Contract No.: ADB/OAS-2005/042

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites companies to apply for prequalification required in subsequent bidding exercise for the provision of janitorial services at ADB's Headquarters facilities which include among others, offices, function rooms, auditorium, facilities block, gas station, guardhouses, canopies, other areas under covered roof in the Headquarters, official residence of ADB President (hereinafter referred to as "the Services").
2. It is expected that the Invitation for Bid for the bidding exercise will be issued no later than the third quarter of 2005.
3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible members of ADB.
4. Interested eligible applicants may request further information by calling, writing or faxing, the Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank at the contact address specified above starting from **9:00 a.m.** to **4:00 p.m.**
5. The Prequalification Document may be obtained from the Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 1636 South, at the above address, from **23 August to 5 September 2005** on any working day, **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, upon presentation of the receipt of payment in cash or manager's check of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Hundred (P500.00) at ADB's Cash Room, Room G239W.
6. Three copies (marked "Original", "Copy 1" and "Copy 2") of the applications should be submitted each in a sealed envelope marked **"Application to Prequalify for Janitorial Services,"** addressed to the attention of **"Head, Procurement and Contracts Administration Section, Institutional Services Division, Office of Administrative Services,"** and should reach ADB not later than **3:00 p.m.** on **21 September 2005**. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject late applications.
7. Applicants will be advised, in due course, of the result of their applications. All prequalified applicants will be contacted and issued the Bidding Document.
8. This Invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of the prequalification document shall be borne solely by the applicant.

CECILE L. H. F. GREGORY
Director
Institutional Procurement Committee
Office of Administrative Services

Asian Development Bank
FIGHTING POVERTY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ADB

(PDI--Aug. 23 & 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
P.O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines, Zip Code-1300
Tels.: 891-7601 to 24 • Fax: 833-0187
Website: www.owwa.gov.ph

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that OWWA-Medicare Land Bank continuous form checks with Serial nos. 319251 to 320000 are missing. Any transactions involving these checks will not be honored by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

MARIANITO D. ROQUE
Administrator

(PDI - August 23, 27 & 31, 2005)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www. peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1. The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), through its Corporate Budget for the CY 2005 intends to apply the sum of PhP 2,987,265.60 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Supply and Delivery of PEZA Forms. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following GOODS:

PARTICULARS	QUANTITY (pads)
Form No. 8101 – Import Permit	9,000
Form No. 8104 – Export Tally	11,000
Form No. 8105 – Application for Permit to Bring Goods from the Customs Territory into the Zone	6,000
Form No. 8106 – Application for permit to Bring Goods from the Zone into the Customs Territory	12,000
Authority to Withdraw	2,000
Boat Notes	4,000

Delivery of the GOODS is required within thirty (30) calendar days from the date receipt of the Notice to Proceed. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 18-26 August 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays from the address below upon submission of a certified copy of a DBM-GEPS Certification as a registered supplier/contractor and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (PhP 1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 31 August 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, Almeda Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before 11:00 a.m. of 12 September 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than PhP74,681.64 or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than PhP 29,872.66. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 12 September 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, Almeda Bldg. III Roxas Blvd., corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F Almeda Building III Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No. 891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 17 & 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Control for Health Development - Eastern Visayas
Government Center, Palo, Leyte

INVITATION FOR BIDS

1. The Department of Health, Center for Health Development - Eastern Visayas has received an ODA Loan from JAPAN BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), for the **Help for Catubig Agricultural Assistance Project**, HCCAP, for brevity. A portion of said loan proceeds shall be applied to payments for some office supplies, medical equipment, drugs and medicines, computer and parts and motor vehicles, listed in the ANNEXES. Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans".
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   - (a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   - (b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract, funded with JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. The DOH-CHD-Eastern Visayas, now invites sealed bids for eligible bidders for the supply of the Office Supplies, Housekeeping Supplies, Medicines, Electrical, Computer and Parts and Supplies, Medical, Malacological, Diagnostic and Laboratory Supplies and Motor Vehicles for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Department of Health, Center for Health Development - Eastern Visayas, Government Center, Palo, Leyte.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P300 for each package/category of goods. The goods to be procured classified under the following packages, as follows
   - A. Office Supplies
   - B. Medical/Laboratory/Dental Supplies
   - C. House Keeping Supplies
   - D. Electrical/Computer, Parts and Supplies
   - E. Motor Vehicles and Tools

   Interested bidders may bid for one, two or all of the packages/categories.
6. Pre-bid conference will be held on **September 5, 2005** at 2:00 PM at the CHD Conference Room.
7. The estimated date of award is October 24, 2005.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two percent (2%) of Total Bid Price, in Philippine currency and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on September 16, 2005 at 2:00 PM and will be publicly opened immediately thereafter at the DOH-CHD-EV Conference Room.

The Department of Health, Center for Health Development - Eastern Visayas will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

For further details you may contact the **Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee** at Tel. No. 323-5044 or the BAC Secretary at Tel. No. 323-5025 during office hours. Also please visit CHD-EV Website (www.chd.doh.gov.ph) for a complete listing of the goods and vehicles to be procured.

(Sgd.) **PAULA PAZ M. SYDIONGCO, M.D., MPH**
Chief, LHAD
Chairperson, Bids & Awards Commitiee

(PDI--Aug. 23, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Land Reform
Provincial Land Reform Office
J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DLR Agusan del Norte is inviting all licensed GE Survey Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for subdivision survey of collective Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA's) located within the municipalities of the province of Agusan del Norte with an estimated area of 1,200 has more or less.

A pre-bid conference will be held on September 16, 2005 at the address mentioned above at 10:00 a.m. However, deadline for submission of eligibility documents will be on September 12, 2005 until 5:00 p.m. only. Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the cashier.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. NOWEH MECA E. PACAMALAN**
BAC Chairperson

Noted:
(Sgd.) **ANDRE B. ATEGA**
OIC-PARO II

(PDI--Aug. 19, 23 & 31, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 69, Pasig City

In the matter of the Adoption of Minor
LADY AVEGEIL GELLADO
AGUDERA with Application for
Declaration as Abandoned Child.

JDRC No. 6653

SPOUSES JEFFERY E. GUEVARA and
EVELYN A. GUEVARA,
Petitioners
x---x

ORDER

This refers to a verified petition for the adoption of minor Lady Avegeil Gellado Agudera filed by petitioners Sps. Jeffery E. Guevara and Evelyn A. Guevara, praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered to the effect that the minor be freed from all legal obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her natural parents, and be, for all legal intents and purposes, the child of petitioners, and be issued a new Certificate of Birth.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the initial hearing of this petition be set on August 24, 2005 at 8:30 in the morning to be held at the 2nd Floor, Room 205, Justice Hall Building, Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound, Pasig City.

Let this order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the region and elected by raffle under the supervision of the Executive Judge.

Furnish the OSG, petitioners and their counsel a copy of this order.

SO ORDERED
July 13, 2005
Pasig City, Metro Manila

(Sgd) LORIFEL LACAP PAHIMNA
Judge

(PDI- August 5, 12, 19, 21 & 23, 2005)

EYE REFRACTION!

FITS INDUSTRIAL SAFETY EYEGLASSES WITH GRADE

VISION PLAZA
41-42 Shopwise Arcade
Araneta Center, Cubao
Tel. Nos. : 911-27-24
911-27-13

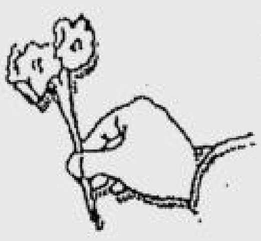
1st Philippine Creative Industry forum at the CCP

INTERESTED parties are hereby invited to attend the "Nurturing Creativity: The First Phil. Creative Industry Forum" slated on September 7-9, at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. The forum aims to define the growth and cultural contribution of creative industries, as well as their relation to art, education and social inclusion. The conference will also examine these issues in the Philippine context and how similar movements in the other countries are relevant to our economic development initiatives. It will feature examples of the best practices in the United Kingdom, Hongkong, Singapore, and Thailand. The conference will bring together various groups of people working in creative industries to share their experiences and dialogues with senior policy makers, politicians, civil servants, and those working in enterprise initiatives. The forum is in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry-Citem, Cultural Center of the Philippines, British Council Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). Registration fee: P2,000 (Metro Manila participants); P1,800 (early registrants/Aug. 26 deadline); P1,500 (groups) and P1,000 (regional participants). The fee includes food (2 snacks and lunch) for three days and a forum kit. For more information, please call the CCP Cultural Resource and Communication Services at 833-0267/832-3674 / 8321125 loc. 1700-1710, or e-mail at **creative@culturalcenter.gov.ph**

Pups For Sale!!!

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER
3 months old
w/complete shots and papers
smart, doesn't shed, alert,
very trainable
salt and pepper color
Champion Line
CALL 0917-8164792

On her SIXTH DEATH
ANNIVERSARY,
we lovingly remember
MOMMY, WHO IS
FOREVER IN OUR MINDS *and* HEARTS...
SORELY MISSED BY ALL OF US.



ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA-TICZON

(***wife*** of the late Philantropist, Herbalist, Author and Corporate Lawyer **Atty. Romeo Reyes Ticzon, Sr.** and ***eldest daughter*** of the late Statesman, Banker, First Mayor of Pasay City, Founder of Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Secretary of Labor (President Elpidio Quirino administration), Philippine Airlines (PAL) Chairman, Philippine Veterans Bank Founder **Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr.** and the late Philantropist **Doña Ruperta Herrero Lovina**)

1997 Gintong Sikap Awardee
(Federation of Filipino Consumers, Inc.)

1997 Gintong Ina Awardee
(Parangal ng Bayan Awards)

1997 Highest Achievement Awardee
(New Life on Family Development & Youth Council, Inc.)

1998 Golden Heart Public Service Awardee
(Development of Filipino Youth, Inc.)

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 23, 1999 3:40 A.M. at Makati Medical Center at the age of 78.

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches today, August 23, 2005

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene .... *Quiapo, Manila*	*5:00 A.M.*
National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary .... *Sto. Domingo, Quezon City*	*5:45 A.M.*
Mt. Carmel Shrine .... *Doña J. Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City*	*6:00 A.M.*
St. Francis Parish Church .... *Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City*	*6:00 A.M.*
Sanctuario de San Antonio .... *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church .... *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	*6:15 A.M.*
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish .... *N. Garcia cor. Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air II, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
Immaculate Concepcion Parish .... *P. Burgos Street, Antipolo, Rizal*	*6:30 A.M.*
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima .... *Rodriguez Avenue & Capinpin Street, Bangkal, Makati City*	*6:30 A.M.*
Redemptorist Church .... *Baclaran, Parañaque*	*6:45 A.M.*
St. John Bosco Parish .... *A. Arnaiz Ave., cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City*	*7:30 A.M.*
Harrison Plaza Chapel .... *Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila*	*12:00 N.N.* *& 5:30 P.M.*
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace .... *Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City*	*5:30 P.M.*
Christ the King Parish .... *Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City*	*6:00 P.M.*
Malate Catholic Church .... *2000 M.H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	*6:00 P.M.*
Mary the Queen Parish .... *Madison Street, Greenhills, San Juan*	*6:00 P.M.*
Our Lady of Assumption Parish .... *Asuncion Street, Malate, Manila*	*6:15 P.M.*
Sanctuario de San Jose .... *Greenhills Mandaluyong City*	*6:15 P.M.*

Her CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- **JULIETA**
- **ROMEO, JR.** and LEONY DASCO and their children ROSSANA and LITO, ARLENE, VINCENT, DR. ADOLF, JULIUS and KAY, grandchildren RUTH ISABEL and JULIO LUIS GABRIEL
- **OPHELIA** and BENNY T. CLEMENTE and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE
- **OTHELLO** and LIZA ROÑO and their children RAYMOND, DR. MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA ANN, grandchildren TANYA ISABEL, ROMEO RODRIGO III, and MIGUELA ISABELLE.
- **BELEN** and ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR. and their daughter MARIA ANTONIA
- **ROSSINA**
- **LOURDES** and EDGAR MARTIN and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ
- **PORTIA** and RAMON B. SANTOS and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL
- **RUBEN** (deceased),

BROTHERS*, TEDDY HERRERO LOVINA and*
NONIE MONTILLA LOVINA,

BROTHERS IN LAW*, BERT ACOSTA and*
CONRADO REYES TICZON,

SISTER*, NING LOVINA-VILLAR*

SISTERS IN LAW*, DING MATIAS VDA. DE LOVINA,*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA,
NORMA DE GUZMAN VDA. DE LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO VDA. DE LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IN THEIR PRAYERS.

THE
HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of [illegible]-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

"You have granted him the desire of his heart and have not withheld the request of his lips .... He asked you for life, and you gave it to him — length of days, forever and ever." **Psalm 21:2-4**

ATTY. ROMAN F. MABANTA, JR.

Peacefully went home to his Creator on the 19th day of August 2005.

Devoted husband of the late **Alicia Ysip Mabanta**

Loving father of **Jiggs**, **Rosanne & Rick Watson**, **Bobby & Dottie**, **Rusty & Tina**, **Lydia & Jim Paredes**, **Nandy & Karl Kruger**, **Ricky & Chato**, **Pinky** and **Peter Gonzales**, **Marty & Vangie**, **Ollie & Butch Campos**.

Beloved Lolo of **Korinne & Eric Watson**, **Anton**, **Robert**, **Nikko & Daniella Mabanta**, **Elaine** and **Tony Young**, **Andrea Mabanta**, **Erica**, **Ala & Mio Paredes**, **Kristin & Kevin Kruger**, **Paolo**, **Lara & Sabrina Mabanta**, **Lissy Gonzales**, **Miguel & Gabriel Mabanta**, and **Jamie**, **Janelle**, **Jay**, **Jaclyn** and **Jeanette Campos**.

Beloved grandlolo of **Ananda Paredes**, **Joshua Razo** and **AJ Mabanta**.

Loving brother to **Puring (†) & Maning (†) Romero**, **Jose (†)**, **Fausto & Lulu (†)**, **Felix (†) & Linda**, **Pilar (†) & Gonzalo (†) Relova**, **Jose & Bella**, and **Nenita & Romeo Mendoza**.

Interment will be on the 24th of August 2005, Wednesday, at the crypt of Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows, after the 9:00 A.M. mass and necrological services at the main church of Sta. Maria della Strada Parish.

In lieu of flowers, his family requests donations to Our Lady of the Pentecost Church.

"You have turned my mourning into dancing .... O Lord my God,
I will give thanks to you forever" Psalm 30:11-12

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." – **John 11:25-26**

Atty. EDUARDO CABRAL MERCADO, SR.

of Cebu and Parañaque City

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 21, 2005 at the age of 87.

His bereaved children and in-laws **EDUARDO, JR. & BONITA (†)**, **ANGELINA**, **CORNELIO & MARIAN**, **ERNESTO & BECK**, **FEDERICO & ZENY**, **OSCAR**, **LUMINA**, **HONORIO & CESAR**; brother **MANUEL**; sisters **CORAZON**, **AMPARO**, **URSULA (†)**, **AVELINA, SR.**, **MA. LOURDES & OFELIA**; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and other relatives request your prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Friday, August 26, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 3:00 p.m.

**I am
the way,
the
truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.**
John 14:6

NONITO JIMENEZ JIMENEZ, MD

of Legazpi City and Sorsogon City

Former Chief of Hospital, Vicente L. Peralta Memorial Hospital, Castilla, Sorsogon and Pioduran District Hospital, Pioduran, Albay

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 19, 2005
at the age of 81.

His bereaved wife, **Angelita Mendoza**, children, **Amelita** and **Luis de Vera, Jr.**, **Federico** and **Leonora Ravago**, **Renato** and **Cristina Macariola**, **Maria Socorro** and **Oreste Virata**, **Nonito, Jr.** (†) and **Marcy Mape**, **Mercedes** and **Edilberto Geres**, **Jose Maria** and **Angelita Villanueva**, **Alberto** (†), **Angelita** and **Fortuno Cortes** (†) and **Angela Leah**, brothers and sisters, **Consuelo** and **Domingo C. Tutaan** (†), **Manuel** (†), **Milagros**, **Lucy** and **Ignacio S. Salandanan** (†), **Leticia** (†), **Ramon** and **Thelma Valencerina**, **Arturo** and **Eleanor G. Soler**, **Antonio** and **Leonila Zalameda**, **Federico** and **Ruth Ruiz**, and **Renato** (†), nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, request prayers for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Jimenez Residence, Talisay, Sorsogon City. Interment will be on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the Sorsogon Catholic Cemetery after the 9:00 A.M. mass at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul.

We design OBITUARIES for free.

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, even if he dies, shall live; and whoever lives and believes in me, shall never die." – **John 11:25-26**

JOSE CARREON ELISES, M.D.

UST Medicine Class 1946
Imus, Cavite

Peacefully joined his Creator on Sunday,
the 21st of August 2005 at the age of 87.

His loving wife, **Margarita**; children, **Elsie & Romy Semilla (†)**, **Joel & Vicky Reyes**, **Nelson & Leny Guevara**; grandchildren, **Roel & Joyce Macatangay**; **Joyce**, **Adrian & Teachie Egasani**, **Kristine**, **Michelle**, **Edward**, and **Carlo**; **Chino**, **Jiggy**, and **J-son**; great grandchildren, **Joel Matthew & Francis Adrian**; siblings, nephews, and nieces; request for fervent prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the San Beda College Alabang Chapel, Alabang Hills Village, Muntinlupa City from August 22 to 24, 2005; and will be transferred to La Funeraria Sapinoso Premiere Chapel, Imus, Cavite on August 25, 2005.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 27, 2005, at the Imus Cemetery after the 1:30 p.m. mass at the Imus Cathedral.

Dionisio B. Bautista

1927-2005
of Cabanatuan City
and Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro

Died on the peace of the Lord
on August 21, 2005.

His loving wife **Felicidad** (†), children: **Glecy** & **Lino**, **Tess**, **Jimmy** & **Joji**, **Perla** & **Awe**, grandchildren: **Ronald** & **Sialin**, **Jonjon** & **Rochelle**, **Mimi** & **Bong**, **Joriel**, **Sherwin** & **Jojilyn**, **Jaime Liza**, **Kaye**, **TinTin**, **Jono Boy** and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 6 of the Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

Interment will be ~~on Thursday~~, August 25, 2005
at The Heritage ~~Park~~ at 1:00 p.m.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

ROMULO MABANTA BUENAVENTURA
SAYOC & DE LOS ANGELES

Announces with great sorrow the passing away of its Senior Partner

ROMAN MABANTA, JR.

May 23, 1925 – August 19, 2005

His remains lie in state at the Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church,
Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

Daily Masses will be offered at 7:30 p.m.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 24, 2005,
at the crypt of Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows after the
9:00 a.m. Mass at Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church

In lieu of flowers his family requests donations to
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish

CHUA HIONG

1916 - 2005
Widow of the late **LORENZO TAN**,
Brooke's Point/Puerto Princesa
Palawan

Her bereaved children and grandchildren

DR. PACIFICO TAN (†) & CELIA UY
- Nathaniel

ATTY. VICENTE TAN & LILY GAN
- Vivian
- Vicki
- Vincent
- Lorenzo II

MILDRED TAN & WELLINGTON LEE
- Shirley
- Daniel
- Marilou
- Jennifer

CARMEN TAN & HO TIONG ONG LO
- Winston
- Dennis
- Angeli
- Lynette

ROSALINA TAN & FELIX LAO
- Wesley
- Alvin
- Kelvin
- Jonathan
- Paul Elton

ANGELITA TAN & HENRY SO
- Katherene
- Heindrich
- Margarita
- Anna May

CONCHITA TAN & DR. SEGUNDO MORENO
- Kimmie
- Nikki
- Melody
- Cristine

MELBA TAN & JOY TAN
- Jason

CLARITA TAN & PETER TAN, JR.
- Elizabeth Joy
- Andrew Aaron
- Anthony Daniel

WILLIAM TAN & MARY LOU PE TAN
- Stephen
- Patrick
- John Kenneth

JOSEPH TAN & ANGELINA TAN
- Timothy
- Jeffrey
- Aileen Joyce

"My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the Strength
of my heart and my portion forever"
Psalm 73:26

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment: August 28, 2005; 9:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. ROMEO DUMOL DESLATE

Chairman of the Board
Voltronics Industrial Corporation

Has peacefully joined his Creator on August 21, 2005 at the age of 59.

His bereaved wife DORIS; children RICHARD, RAYMOND and Dr. RACHEL; brothers and sisters RIC & CELIA, NADIA (†) & ROBERT, ROLLY (†) & CHARITO, NORIA & BOY, RAMON & Dr. LILIA, NYMPHA & JUN, NINIA & HERMIE; nephews, nieces, brothers- & sisters-in-law, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Don Bosco Chapel of Hope, A. Arnaiz (formerly Pasay Road) Street, SLV, Makati City.

His body will be cremated on August 24, 2005 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Dr. JOSE VELOSO PATERNO, D.M.D.

Former Dentist of Madrigal Group of Companies

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 20, 2005
at the age of 80.

Services on August 23, 2005 will be as follows:

6:00 AM – Mass at Mount Carmel Church, New Manila, Q.C.
8:00 AM – 12:00 NN – Cremation at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Q.C.
2:00 PM – Mass at the San Felipe Neri Church, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City.
2:30 PM – Remains will be put in his final resting place in a crypt at the same church.
6:00 PM – Mass at the Carmelite Sisters Chapel, Gilmore, Q.C. to be officiated by Father Abbot Eduardo Africa.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Carmelite Sisters and San Felipe Neri Church will be appreciated.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

CLASSIFIEDS

New Cayenne upgrades

THE PGA Cars Porsche Center Philippines has two new products for Cayenne owners, says the distributorship's spokesman, Amado Del Rosario. First the Cayenne Turbo Performance Kit increases the oomph of the swish offroader from 450 brake horsepower to 500bhp, he says.

"The increased performance comes from a modified intercooler combined with an optimized engine management system," Del Rosario says. "The flow-optimized design of the intercooler has significantly reduced pressure losses, providing the thermodynamic foundation for an effective power increase." Torque has been increased from 620Nm to 700Nm, sprints from 0-100km/h have been trimmed from 5.6 seconds to 5.3 seconds, and top speeds have been raised from 266km/h to 270 km/h.

"To adapt the brake system to the increased engine output and the accompanying significant improvement in performance, a larger brake had to be developed for both the front and the rear axle" Del Rosario clarifies. "Brake ventilation has also been optimized. The chassis has also been adapted for the increased engine and braking performance."

You can also fit a reversing camera on any Cayenne fitted with a Porsche Communication Management (PCM) Del Rosario adds. "The camera provides a crisp detailed color image on the PCM display to, allow precision reversing into tight spaces," he says. "It's a great tool when parking on tight and narrow streets, or simply parking in small car parks in the Philippines." The device could be handy in your car's parking slot, and is available as an exclusive option. Retrofitting isn't available.

PGA Cars is the country's sole authorized importer and distributor of Porsche vehicles and offers the latest Porsche models in the market. Everyone is welcome to visit PGA Cars Porsche Center Philippines at 201 EDSA, Mandaluyong City, or call telephone number 727 0381 to 85 for more information on the latest Porsche vehicles and arrangements for test drives.

PGA cars heralds the arrival of the new Audi A4

PGA Cars, Inc., the only authorized importer and distributor of Audi vehicles in the Philippines will be launching the most premier luxury sedan in its class, the latest model 2005 Audi A4. All car enthusiasts and connoisseurs are invited to come and experience firsthand, the latest 2005 model A4 sedan and avant that carries the distinctive Audi single frame grille. This will be a great opportunity for discerning car aficionados and luxury car owners to have a detailed and intimate look at the Audi. A test drive will provide a convincing end to the argument as to what is the best luxury car brand and will present the new Audi A4 as the car of choice.

The Audi A4 Launch will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on August 25 through 28, 2005. T and will be held at 29th St. corner 5th Avenue in the Fort Bonifacio Global City grounds, Taguig City. As an added treat to our test drive participants, we will be conducting a daily raffle in which a luxurious hotel accomodation package for two at the prestigous and world class Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila awaits the lucky winners.

For more information on how you can ba part of the Audi A4 Launch and to arrange for your test drive appointment, please contact PGA Cars at telephone number 7270386 or cellphone number 09209701990, or you may send an e-mail to sales@audi.ph.

LEADERSHIP + TECHNOLOGY:
Leveraging online support to accelerate leadership development

LEADERSHIP Development. Succession planning. Driving new competencies to stay competitive. These issues and more confront organizations trying to pull ahead in the global marketplace where the most critical resources are human resources. Developing leaders is more challenging than ever as they must work in a competitive environment, with a lean workforce, with people spread across global locations, where technology is at the center of how we work and communicate.

On Thursday, Sept. 8, 1-5 p.m. at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, see how over 400 organizations across the globe have used online solutions to accelerate their most important resources—human resources. Pete Weaver, SVP of Leadership Solutions and Chief Learning Officer of Development Dimensions International (DDI), a global U.S.-based human resources consulting firm, will discuss how you can leverage technology to accelerate your leaders' development.

In Leadership + Technology, several integrated DDI solutions will be highlighted, including: Leadership Mirror – a fully web-based multi-rater feedback system; Targeted Feedback—an innovative approach to identify individual strength's and development needs without using numerical ratings; OPAL—the most comprehensive online resource providing competency-based learning; and hundreds of tips, tools, and techniques to help your people effectively deal with the daily challenges of leadership.

There are limited slots to this free event. To register and inquire for details, please contact Karina Pessumal at 638-2061 local 219 or kpessumal@sgvddi.com.ph on or before Friday, August 26.

PMAP Annual Conference • Sept. 28-30, 2005 • Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City • Call 726-1532 /81/ 88 for details

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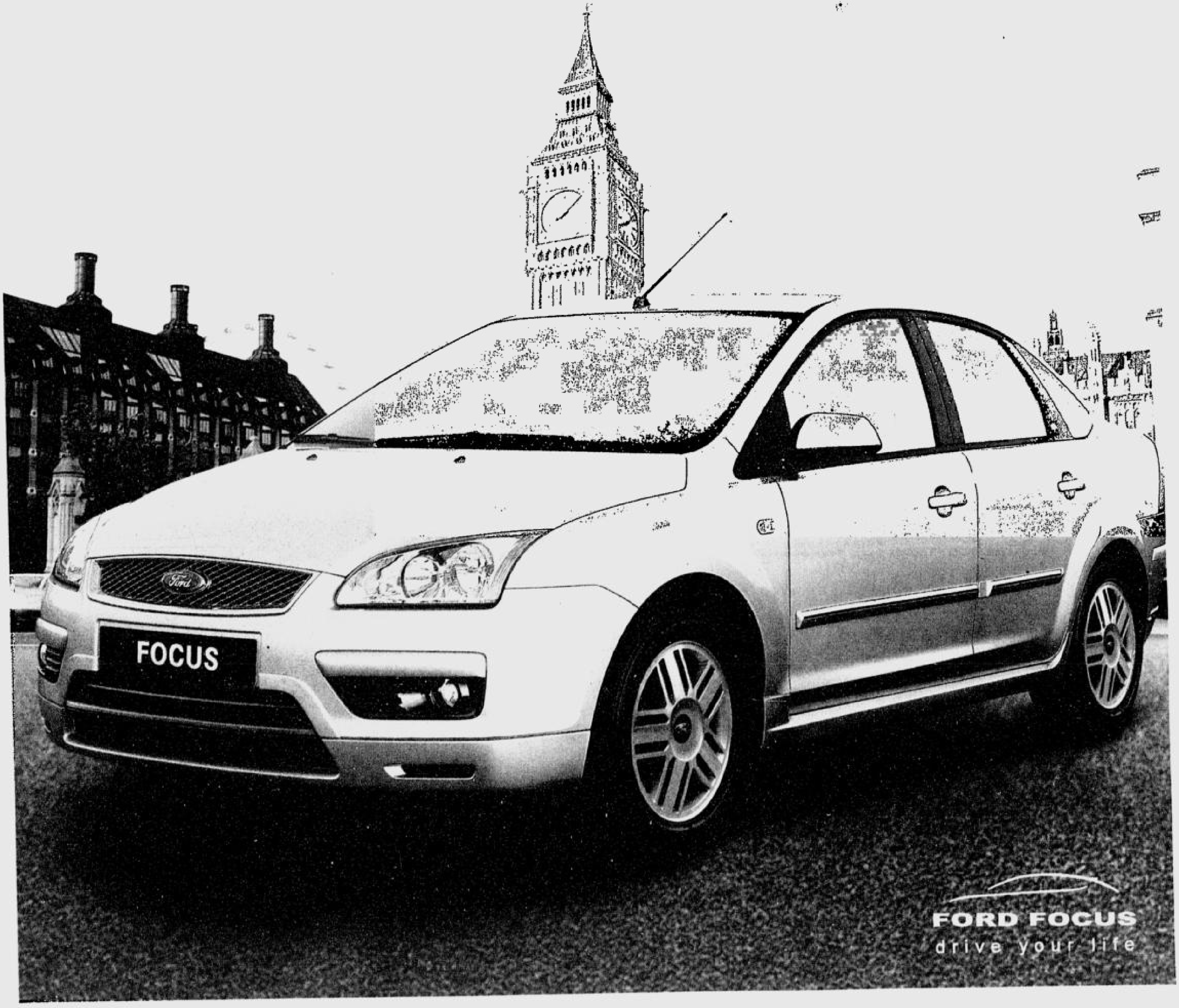

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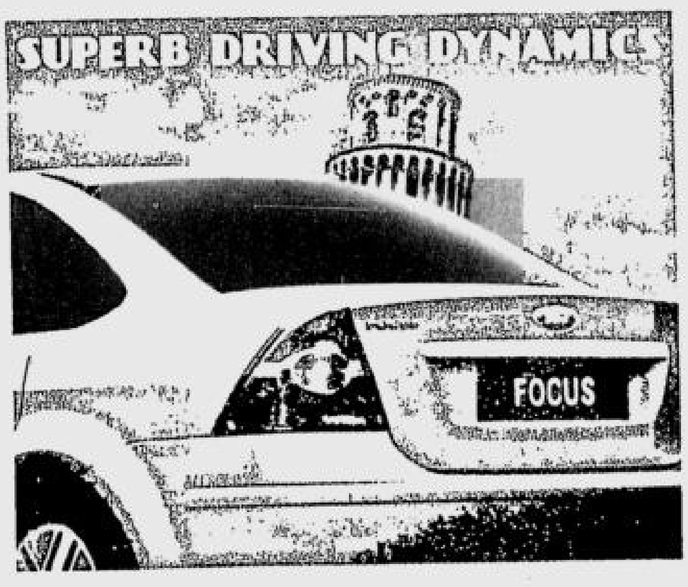
GERMAN ENGINEERING



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CEBU get-together for the 'alta sociedad' /C4

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Seven stages to self-liberation

"EVERY year I live. I am more convinced that the waste of life lies in the love we have not given, the powers we have not used, the selfish prudence that will risk nothing, and which, shirking pain, missed happiness as well. No one ever yet was poorer in the long run having once in a lifetime let out all the length of the rains."

—Robin Sharma

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IN A BOOK designed to give a person life-changing insights, premised on the belief that the best is yet to come if you allow it, here are some guide posts to show you the way.

The pursuit of wellness isn't just about eating right; it's about feeding your spirit the sustenance it requires to guarantee your well-being.

Real you

To do this, the real you—the authentic you that is waiting to be discovered—awaits its true awakening.

Stage 1—Self-betrayal

How one lives a lie is by not doing the best that can be done. Every person has talents/gifts. You perpetuate a lie by being untrue to your potential, by allowing the fear of failure to control you. The real cancer is that which you allow to kill your spirit by being untrue to yourself.

Stage 2—The point of choice

Release your control and unshackle your chains. Once you are aware that you are just following the rest of the crowd, unmindful or uncaring about your great potential as a human being, then you will reach a crossroad. The choice is to continue living the life you have always lived (resigning yourself to unhappiness and mediocrity) or decide to change all that by truly living the life you have always wanted but once lacked the courage to do so. Take risks. Dare to be different. Challenge yourself to dream your heart's wishes and not what people expect of you.

Stage 3—One's awareness of wonder and possibility

An inspiring stage where you come to realize the innate goodness in others. You know that people do what they do in hurtful ways because of their own personal issues. By being aware of the worst in others you begin to see your best self.

Stage 4—Getting instruction from masters

There is a hunger that rises from within us to search for knowledge. You as truth-seeker begin to read, research, pray, meditate. You want answers to limitless questions. Teachers will appear because the student is ready. New learning merges with your old knowledge. This is the beginning of wisdom.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Stage 5—The time for rebirth and transformation

Considered a most challenging time in a seeker's quest for truth, this is where true change takes place. The old self is left behind while the new self emerges.

As the new Nike ad campaign says, "Leave your old self behind. Reincarnate now." This stage witnesses the manifestation of the bigness and nobility of one's authentic self by simply allowing that part of you that says "go on" and denying the part that says "give up."

Stage 6—Trial period

To retreat is the choice of those who face a test with uncertainty. It is said that once a seeker finds his/her prize, trials come. Trials aim to test the seeker's desire for the treasure or prize, how badly it is wanted. They aim to ensure that the seeker already knows his/her lessons well.

Stage 7—The self reaches the great awakening—true fearlessness

This is the point of enlightenment (that few are able to reach). The seeker becomes his/her original nature (ours when we were infants)—loving, trusting, fearless, innocent, wise.

Devotions to live by

1. Get up before sunrise. An early start in the morning is an early start in life.

2. Devote the first hour of your day to commune with the spirit. Prayer, meditation, reading, rethinking your life (your health goals, personal ambitions and desires, etc.)

3. Build a new world by rebuilding yours with compassion and care. Allow your loving character to emerge and influence all your dealings.

4. Work with excellence as your benchmark. Success will come to you.

5. Be the best loving person ever and you will become a blessing to others.

Love and light!

Reference: Robin Sharma, "Discover Your Destiny with the Monk who Sold His Ferrari, The Seven Stages of Self-awakening"

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Exercise makes a woman eat more?

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

IT'S unfair but true. Men have an easier time losing weight than women.

Scientists think it could be because women's cells are more prone to storing fat. A new study may have discovered another reason. Exercise may stimulate a woman's appetite so she ends up eating an equal amount of calories or more than she burns in the workout.

In the past, research found that male rats did not increase their caloric intake in response to exercise and consequently lost weight. Female rats ate more after exercising and maintained their weights.

It turns out that, when it comes to exercise and appetite, humans may be just like rats. Many studies have shown that moderate and high-intensity exercise has no effect on a man's appetite.

A Canadian study at the University of Ottawa found women participants consumed more calories at lunch after exercising vigorously in the morning compared to when they exercised at a low intensity or not at all.

Researchers defined "high intensity" as walking at a fast pace for 37 minutes on a treadmill (70 percent of peak oxygen uptake) while "low intensity" (40 percent of peak oxygen uptake) was defined as walking at a slow pace for 65 minutes.

The duration of workouts was adjusted so that everyone was burning 350 calories per session.

Is no exercise better?

Does this mean it's better not to exercise or, at least not vigorously, if you want to lose weight? Not at all. The Canadian study found that the women ate 878 calories during lunch after a high-intensity workout, 819 calories after low-intensity exercise, and 751 calories when they did not exercise.

Although they ate the fewest calories at lunch when they did not exercise, a comparison of the amount of calories taken in the whole day and calories used showed they actually had more net calories. So, to lose weight, it's still better to exercise than sit on the couch.

A 2002 study found that fit menopausal women only had 25 percent body fat compared to sedentary menopausal women who had 38 percent body fat.

You burn more total fat calories during vigorous workouts compared to lower intensity exercise. As long as you control what and how much you eat after workouts, you will still be a winner in the weight-loss game. So if you enjoy vigorous exercise, go ahead.

Less body fat

A 1990 study on 1,366 women and 1,257 men suggested that those who did high-intensity exercise tended to have less body fat than those who did lower-intensity workouts.

For those who cannot control their appetite, low-intensity, longer duration exercise may be more appropriate.

Appetite is temporarily suppressed immediately after exercise but ravenous hunger can occur one to two hours later. Take advantage of that small "window of opportunity." Eat a small snack within 30 minutes after working out if you are not ready for a main meal.

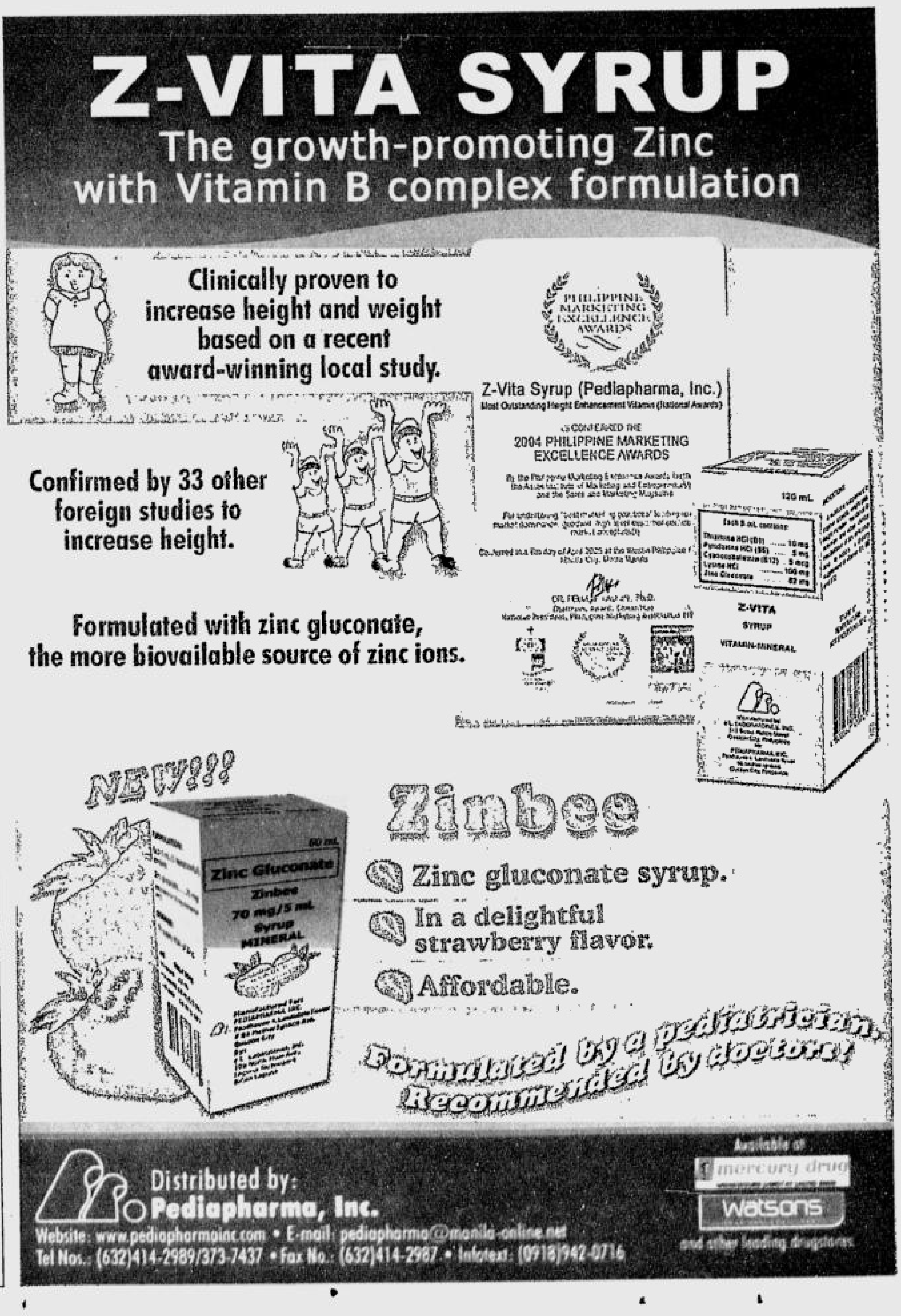
The snack should be about 100-150 calories and should contain protein and carbohydrates, like a glass of milk. The protein helps to suppress appetite while carbohydrates help restore glycogen (a stored form of carbohydrates in the muscles) used during workout.

Do not exercise hungry because you will be very hungry afterwards. For example, if you exercise at 5 p.m. and the last time you ate was at lunch, don't be surprised if you lose control of your appetite at dinner.

Watch out for psychological hunger. It's that attitude that says, "I deserve to eat as much as I want because I had a hard workout." You are probably not burning as many calories as you think.

In a 2004 University of Alabama study,

EXERCISE/C3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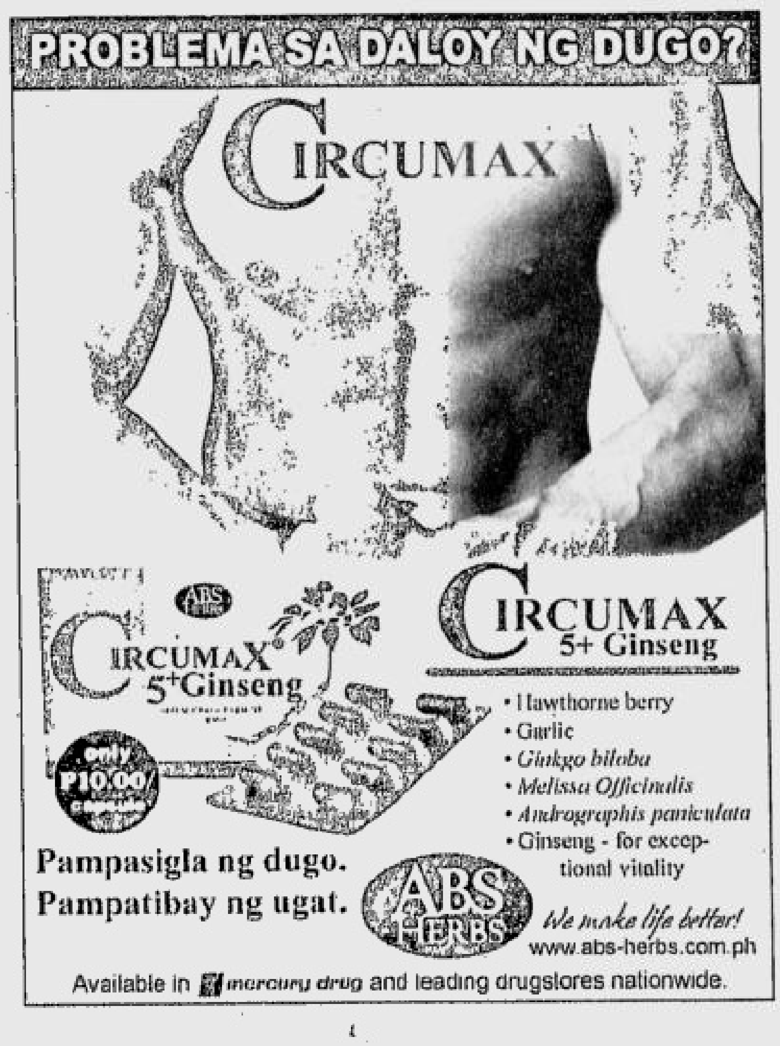
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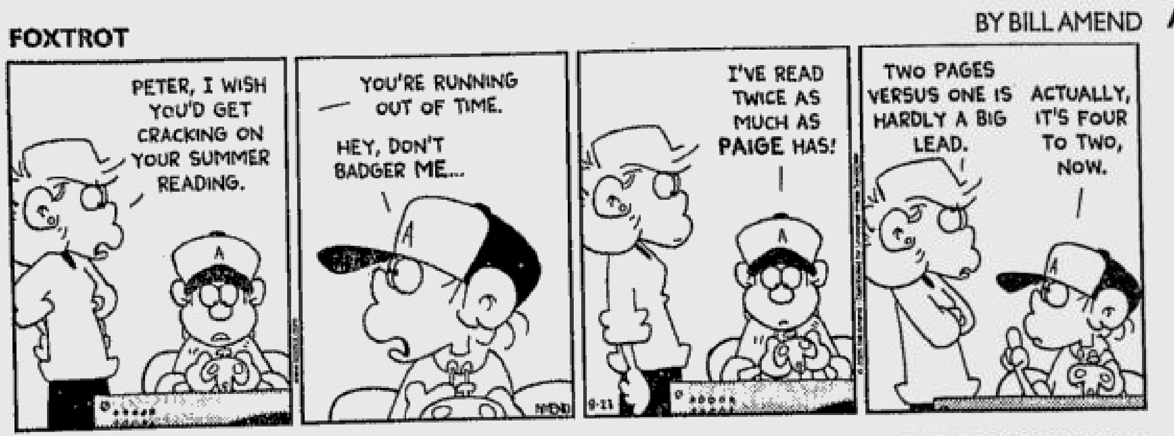
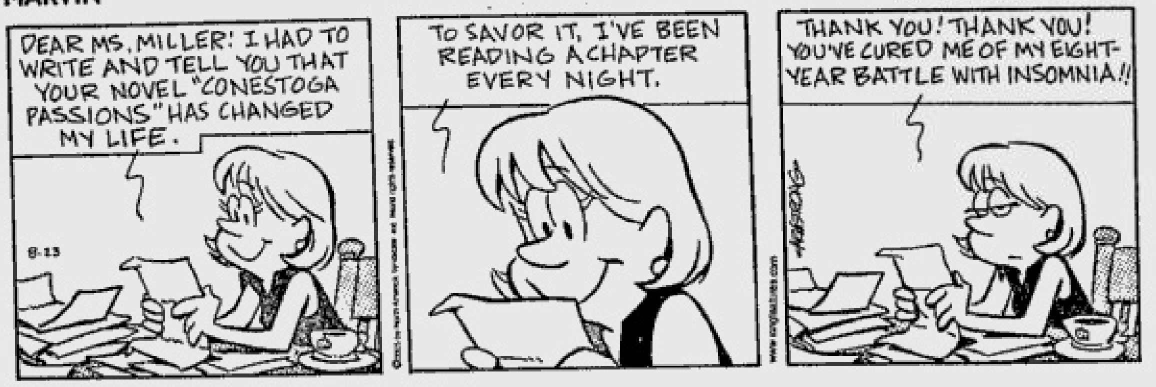
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, I WISH YOU'D GET CRACKING ON YOUR SUMMER READING.
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
HEY, DON'T BADGER ME...
I'VE READ TWICE AS MUCH AS PAIGE HAS!
TWO PAGES VERSUS ONE IS HARDLY A BIG LEAD.
ACTUALLY, IT'S FOUR TO TWO, NOW.

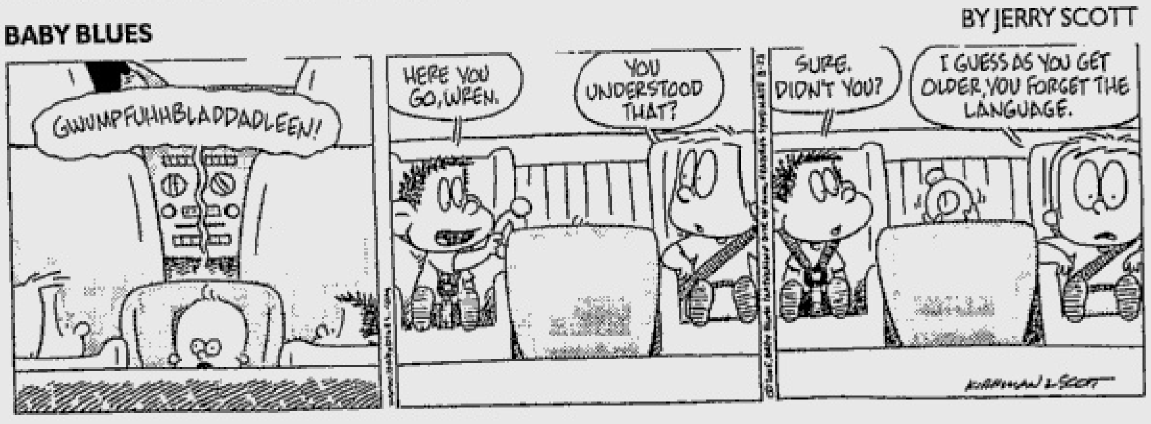
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


DEAR MS. MILLER: I HAD TO WRITE AND TELL YOU THAT YOUR NOVEL "CONESTOGA PASSIONS" HAS CHANGED MY LIFE.
TO SAVOR IT, I'VE BEEN READING A CHAPTER EVERY NIGHT.
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! YOU'VE CURED ME OF MY EIGHT-YEAR BATTLE WITH INSOMNIA!!

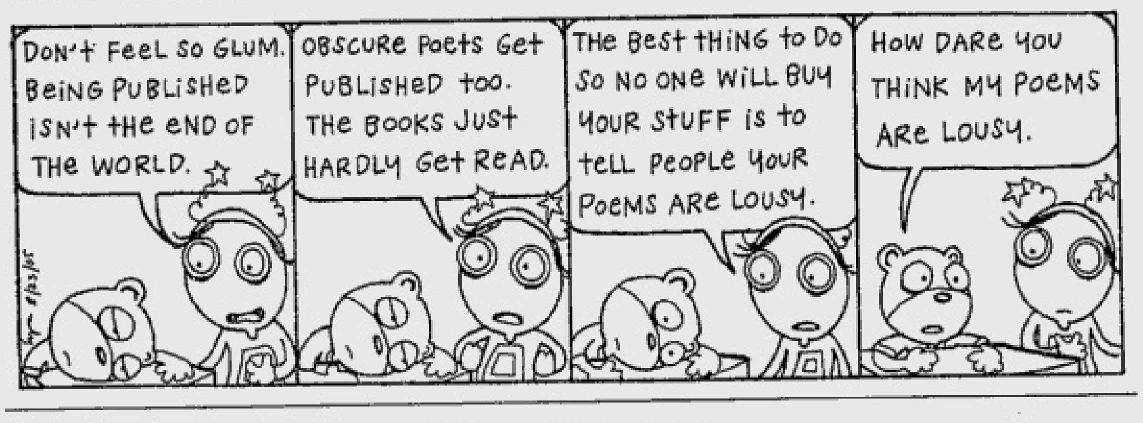
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GWUMPFUHHBLADDADLEEN!
HERE YOU GO, WREN.
YOU UNDERSTOOD THAT?
SURE. DIDN'T YOU?
I GUESS AS YOU GET OLDER, YOU FORGET THE LANGUAGE.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Don't Feel so GLUM. Being Published isn't the end of the World.
Obscure Poets Get Published too. The Books Just Hardly Get Read.
The Best thing to Do So No one Will Buy Your Stuff is to tell People Your Poems Are Lousy.
How Dare You Think My Poems Are Lousy.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: In everything you do, you strive for technical perfection. You believe that God is in the details. You have charm, poise and presence. You're capable of handling many projects at the same time. You have high standards for yourself. The year ahead will focus on your closest relationships.
Birthdate of: Lisa Halaby, Queen Noor of Jordan; Shelley Long, actress; Gene Kelly, actor/dancer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): More and more lately, you want to get in touch with what you really want to do in life. You want more than a job. You want to feel fulfilled in what you're doing!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Home is important to you. You like to own land. In the next few years, you will work hard to establish an anchor for yourself in the world. You want to feel secure about where you live.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Many of you will have a job change or a residential move in the next two years. Start thinking about this now. If your mind is ready, you can grab opportunities when they arise.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might want to change how you earn your living. You'll give a lot of thought to this in the next year. Even now, you're coming up with new moneymaking ideas.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your whole world has changed lately! You're in a new sandbox. This is the beginning of a seven-year cycle during which you will completely reinvent yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Don't be surprised if you start to dismantle much of what you've created since 1994. Start to streamline your life by getting rid of what you no longer need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You want to be part of something bigger than yourself. Your interaction with groups, clubs and organizations might become increasingly important to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is the time of harvest in your life. It will last for the next three years. Where you have planted well, you will be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): It's very reassuring for many of you now, because you finally have a goal or objective that you want to achieve. You see where you want to be very soon!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a poor day to shop or make important decisions. Whatever you initiate today might not bring about the results you expect.

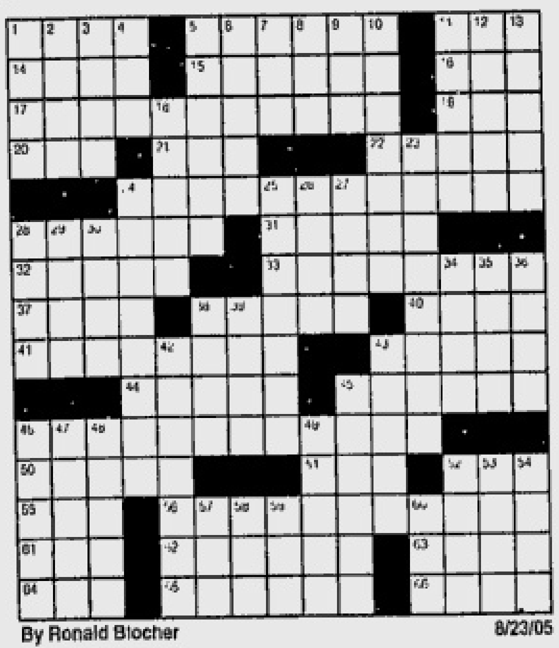
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Some relationships will end this year, and some will begin. You're undergoing changes in partnerships because you're getting stronger and more assertive.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're gearing up to work hard for what you want now. Fortunately, the wealth and resources of others can help you now. Accept what is offered to you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Excessive libido
5 Buddhist tower
11 Move up and down
14 Lamb's pen name
15 Peaceful
16 Dumbo's wing
17 Right granted by law
19 ETO leader
20 Arctic explorer John
21 Mighty long time
22 Burns wildly
24 Cat's cradle
28 British insurance syndicate
31 Sprang up
32 Roof overhang
33 Bettors' advisers
37 Saudi man
38 Signifies
40 Drag forcibly
41 Spacious and grand
43 Trike or bike
44 Country singer Clark
45 Bantered
46 Sovereign investiture
50 Children's Doctor?
51 Colony critter
52 By way of
55 Get some rays
56 Ivy's condition
61 Important period
62 Placid
63 Regarding
64 First of September?
65 Come-on
66 Telegraphic period

DOWN
1 Malicious look
2 Radius's comrade-in-arms?
3 Location
4 Mai __ cocktail
5 Aviators
6 Fight venue
7 Jewel
8 Individual
9 Cacophony
10 Female lead
11 Hosiery shade
12 Like the old bucket of song
13 Brittany port
18 Watches over
23 February gem
24 Cups used in stye treatment
25 Actress Wood
26 Wide smile
27 Prunes
28 Spring forward
29 Tomb raider Croft
30 Out of round
34 For one
35 Wear the crown
36 Snow coaster
38 "Painting" painter
39 Deserve
42 Most minimally worded
43 Italian noble
45 Bruce of track-and-field
46 First name in cosmetics
47 Approaches
48 Albacores
49 Battleship to remember
52 Three-piece piece
53 Toward center
54 On the apex of
57 Born as
58 Song syllable
59 Guitarist Montgomery
60 Pas' mates



By Ronald Blocher
Arlington, TX

8/23/05

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	R	I	C	K	■	G	I	G	S	■	E	R	I	C
A	A	R	O	N	■	A	M	O	K	■	P	O	R	E
E	C	O	N	O	■	S	A	T	I	R	I	C	A	L
S	I	B	■	W	A	T	C	H	P	O	C	K	E	T
A	N	O	T	H	E	R	■	■	P	U	S	S	■	■
R	E	T	R	O	R	O	C	K	E	T	■	T	A	W
■	■	■	I	W	O	■	A	I	R	E	D	A	L	E
J	I	V	E	■	■	P	T	A	■	■	U	R	I	S
A	C	A	D	E	M	I	C	■	E	D	T	■	■	■
M	E	N	■	L	I	G	H	T	S	O	C	K	E	T
■	■	B	E	A	D	■	■	A	N	C	H	O	R	S
C	O	U	R	T	D	O	C	K	E	T	■	N	A	E
P	E	R	M	E	A	B	L	E	■	O	D	I	S	T
O	N	E	A	■	Y	O	U	R	■	R	A	C	E	S
S	O	N	S	■	S	E	E	S	■	S	H	A	R	E

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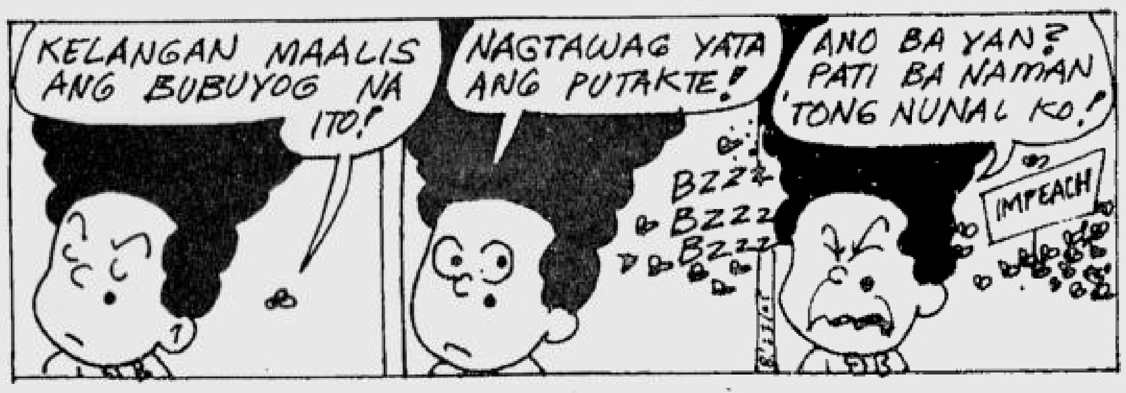
8/23/05

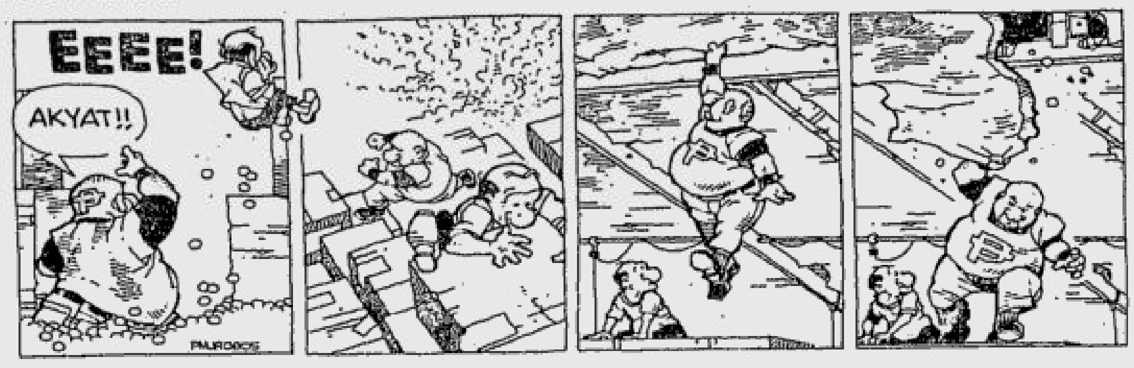
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KELANGAN MAALIS ANG BUBUYOG NA ITO!
NAGTAWAG YATA ANG PUTAKTE!
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
ANO BA YAN? PATI BA NAMAN 'TONG NUNAL KO!
IMPEACH

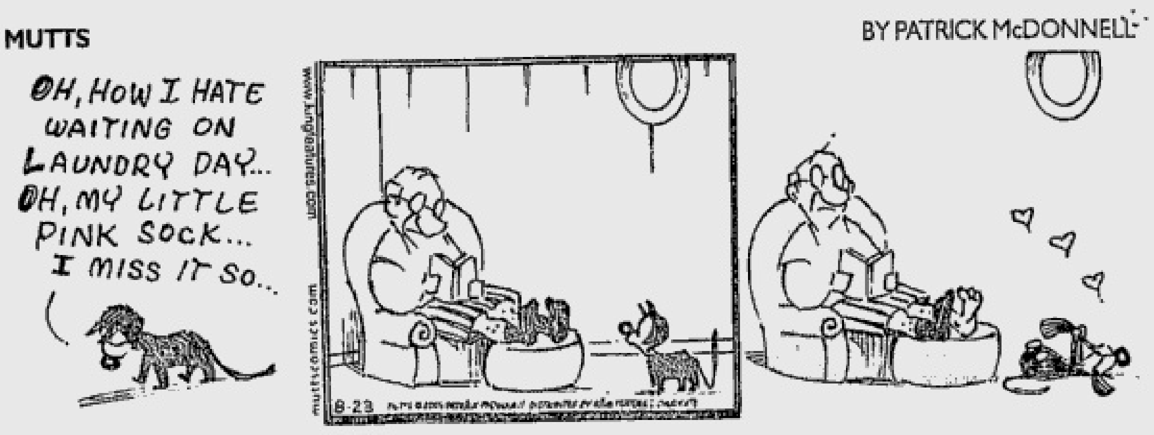
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



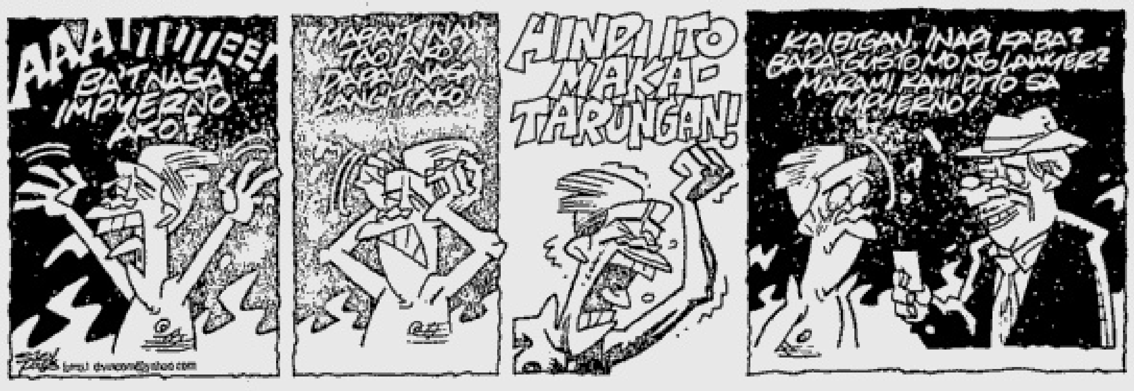
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OH, HOW I HATE WAITING ON LAUNDRY DAY... OH, MY LITTLE PINK SOCK... I MISS IT SO...
8-23

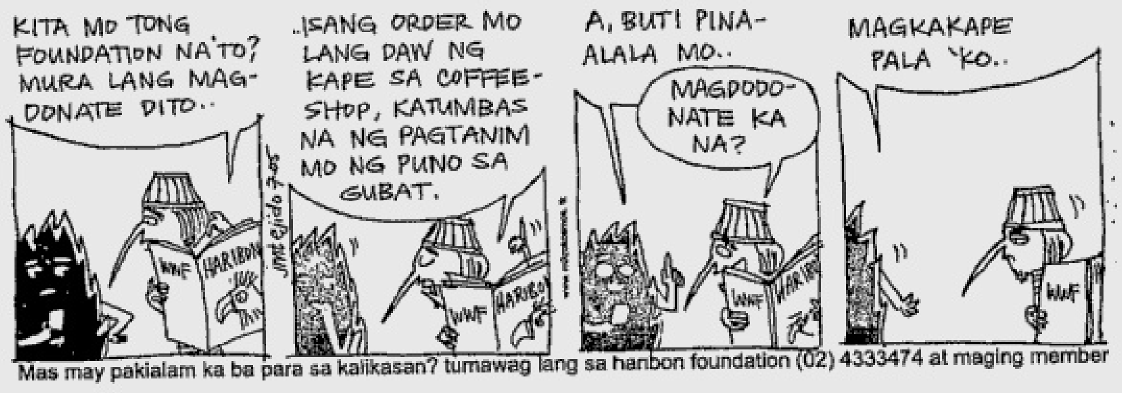
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AAAIIIIIEE! BA'T NASA IMPYERNO AKO?
HINDI ITO MAKATARUNGAN!
KAIBIGAN, INAPI KA BA? BAKA GUSTO MO NG LAWYER? MARAMI KAMI DITO SA IMPYERNO!

MIKROKOSMOS

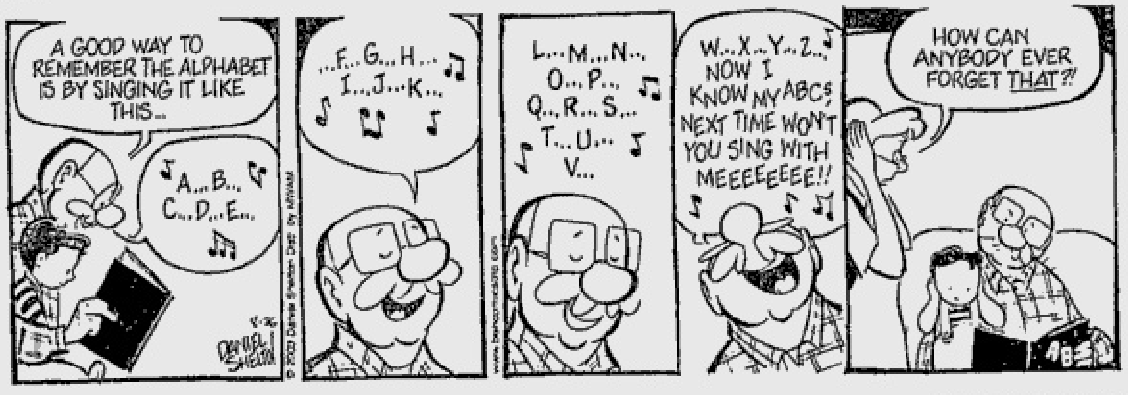
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITA MO TONG FOUNDATION NA'TO? MURA LANG MAGDONATE DITO..
..ISANG ORDER MO LANG DAW NG KAPE SA COFFEE-SHOP, KATUMBAS NA NG PAGTANIM MO NG PUNO SA GUBAT.
A, BUTI PINAALALA MO..
MAGDODONATE KA NA?
MAGKAKAPE PALA 'KO..
WWF
HARIBON

Mas may pakialam ka ba para sa kalikasan? tumawag lang sa hanbon foundation (02) 4333474 at maging member

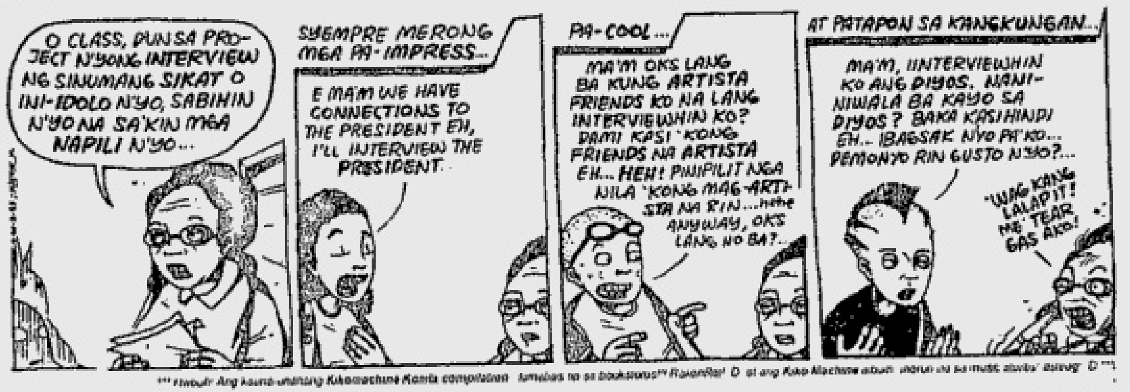
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


A GOOD WAY TO REMEMBER THE ALPHABET IS BY SINGING IT LIKE THIS...
A...B... C...D...E...
...F...G...H... I...J...K...
L...M...N... O...P... Q...R...S... T...U... V...
W...X...Y...Z... NOW I KNOW MY ABC'S, NEXT TIME WON'T YOU SING WITH MEEEEEEEE!!
HOW CAN ANYBODY EVER FORGET THAT?!

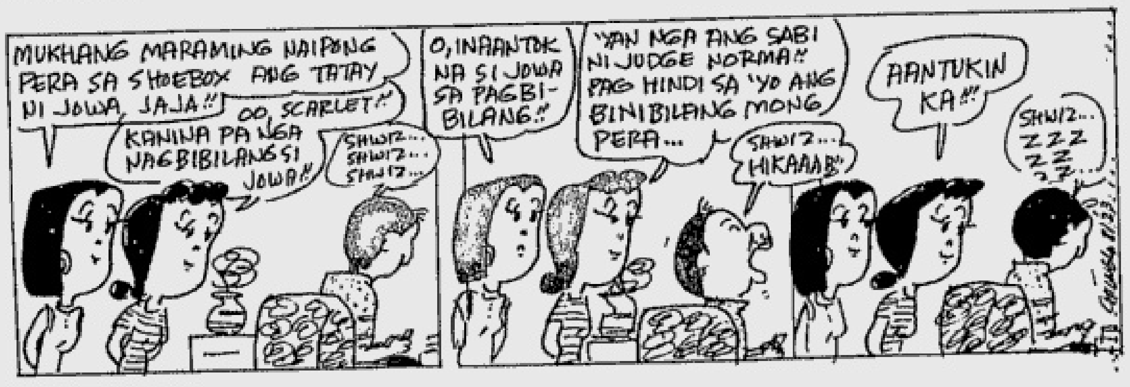
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O CLASS, PUNSA PROJECT N'YONG INTERVIEW NG SINUMANG SIKAT O INI-IDOLO N'YO, SABIHIN N'YO NA SA'KIN MGA NAPILI N'YO...
SYEMPRE MERONG MGA PA-IMPRESS...
E MA'M WE HAVE CONNECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT EH, I'LL INTERVIEW THE PRESIDENT.
PA-COOL...
MA'M OKS LANG BA KUNG ARTISTA FRIENDS KO NA LANG INTERVIEWHIN KO? DAMI KASI 'KONG FRIENDS NA ARTISTA EH... HEH! PINIPILIT NGA NILA 'KONG MAG-ARTISTA NA RIN...hehe ANYWAY, OKS LANG NO BA?
AT PATAPON SA KANGKUNGAN...
MA'M, IINTERVIEWHIN KO ANG DIYOS. NANINIWALA BA KAYO SA DIYOS? BAKA KASI HINDI EH... IBAGSAK N'YO PA'KO... DEMONYO RIN GUSTO N'YO?...
'WAG KANG LALAPIT! ME TEAR GAS AKO!

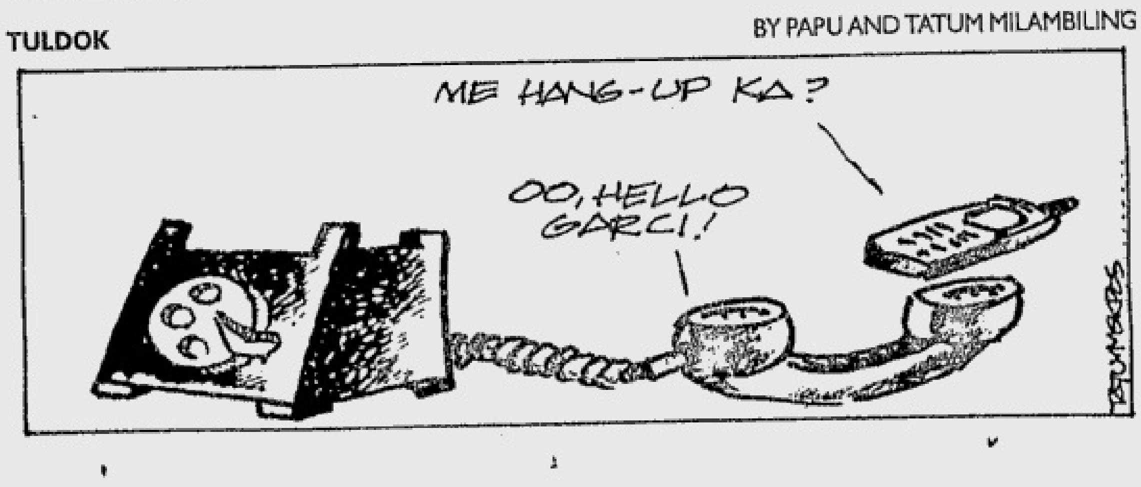
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MUKHANG MARAMING NAIPONG PERA SA SHOEBOX ANG TATAY NI JOWA, JAJA!!
OO, SCARLET!!
KANINA PA NGA NAGBIBILANG SI JOWA!!
SHWIZ... SHWIZ... SHWIZ...
O, INAANTOK NA SI JOWA SA PAGBIBILANG!!
'YAN NGA ANG SABI NI JUDGE NORMA!! PAG HINDI SA 'YO ANG BINIBILANG MONG PERA...
SHWIZ... HIKAAAB!!
AANTUKIN KA!!!
SHWIZ... ZZZ ZZZ

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ME HANG-UP KA?
OO, HELLO GARCI!

The many causes of illness

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

WHY do people get sick? There are different answers to this question, depending on whom you ask.

A doctor of medicine may say we get sick "because of microorganisms, like bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other pathogens and allergens."

A Christian priest may answer, "because we have committed a sin."

A Buddhist may say, "because of karma. We are only paying for something we did wrong in a past life."

A cell biologist may say, "because of our genes."

A local *albularyo* may say, "because you were hexed or you hurt a *dwende* (nature spirit)."

Each of the above answers is true at one time or another. In fact, almost anything can make a person sick, from dust, alcohol and fear, to a mother-in-law's voice!

Disservice

Western allopathic medical science, for all its many benefits and wonders, has done a great disservice to humankind by looking at the human being simply as a machine. It believes in nothing that cannot be dissected or analyzed in the laboratory or seen under a microscope and other modern diagnostic instruments.

But, whether science believes it or not, a human being is made up of body, mind and spirit. And all three must be considered in effecting real healing. In fact the word "healing" originally meant "whole." Therefore, to heal a person is to make him or her whole again.

How can we make a person whole if we do not consider all the parts or elements that make up his/her being?

The good news is that modern medical science is now waking up to the undeniable fact that a human being can be sick not only physically but also emotionally, mentally and spiritually. There are many mysteries about humans that are yet to be uncovered. To insist on treating only at the physical level can have tragic or fatal results.

> Sometimes a disease may even have its origin from a past life centuries before

Possessed

Several years ago, a patient was referred to me by the head of the Neurology Department of a large hospital in Metro Manila. She showed signs of being possessed but the doctors treating her had no way of dealing with such a problem. They did not study this in medical school.

I called a healer who was also an exorcist and clairvoyant and who promptly and easily got rid of the negative entity possessing her. Immediately, her behavior returned to normal and all abnormal symptoms were gone!

Sometimes a sickness may even have its origin in a past life experience that occurred centuries before. For example, a tall heavily built man attended my seminar on "Soulmates, Karma and Reincarnation" where I conducted two hypnotic regressions to help participants remember their past lives. This man was suffering from chronic chest pains that doctors could not diagnose. All tests proved negative.

During the regression, he saw a past life in 14th or 15th century England where he was some kind of a knight or soldier. In one fierce battle, an enemy hurled an ax and hit his chest, splitting it in half.

I told him to meditate on this incident and know that this happened in another lifetime and he should no longer carry the memory of it. From that time on the chest pain disappeared.

Recognized

Modern medicine has long recognized that some illnesses have psychological or emotional causes. Doctors call these "psychosomatic." They used to say 75 percent of illnesses were psychosomatic. Now they believe it is closer to 90 percent.

Louise Hay, in her classic book "Heal Your Body," listed down the mental and emotional origins of many modern ailments as channeled through her by Higher Intelligence, as well as the mental affirmations to counteract them.

Here are some examples from the book:

Acne can be due to "not accepting the self, dislike of self." To counteract this she suggests the mental affirmation: "I love and accept myself."

Arthritis—"feeling unloved, or being resentful and critical."

Asthma—"inability to breathe for one's self, feeling stifled, suppressed.

Breast cysts, lumps—"refusal to nourish self, putting everyone else first."

Cancer—"deep hurt, long standing resentment, deep secret or grief eating away at the self, carrying hatred, feeling helplessness."

Constipation—"refusal to release old ideas, stuck in the past, stinginess."

Migraines—"sexual fears, refusing the flow of life."

TEAM Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas rows its best in Hong Kong.

RP team a finalist in Hong Kong race

TEAM Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas was among the finalists in the recent Hong Kong International Dragon Boat Festival.

Captain Paolo Villaroel said it was a very good showing considering the team could only train once a week for two months because of their jobs. He also pointed out they competed against top teams from Hong Kong, China, Japan, Lichtenstein and Macau.

Formerly known as the Philippine Dragon Boat Rowing Team, the 22-member group of young men has actually won medals in international races including four championships in Hong Kong and Macau in 1995-2002.

Team Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas competed next at the recent Padang International Open Dragonboat Tournament in Indonesia, as the official Philippine representative. The 800-meter race was divided into five-pair and 10-pair categories.

The Team Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas was pitted against groups from Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Singapore and Taipei.

Metrobank Card Corp. supports not only the Team Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas but also the sport of dragon boat rowing. The team is also supported by San Miguel Beer, Asian Terminals, Inc. and Tacoma Integrated Port Services.

TEAM Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas practices in preparation for the competition.

TEAM Metrobank Card-Drago Pilipinas in Hong Kong: Sherwin Yao, Joseph Balderian, Dondon Calma, Raoul Ramirez, Edward de Vera, Philip Chua, Nikki Ting, Happy Maligaya, Rich Dee, Noli Eala, Paolo Villarroel, Anton Arcellana, Jay David and Bobby Lagan. Seated: April Francisco, Angel Ancheta, Coleman Wong, Alexis Atotubo, Aries Fonacier, Aloy Alday, Darwin Basas and James Bungubung

Exercise makes a woman eat more?

From page C1

normal-weight women overestimated the amount of physical activity they did in one day (formal exercise plus activities of daily living) by 600 calories. Overweight women overestimated it by 900 calories.

Temperature

Aside from gender, appetite after exercise is also affected by temperature.

Scientists have long suspected that swimming in cold water increases the appetite compared to jogging or cycling that makes one feel hot and sweaty afterwards. Some studies have also found that swimming is not as effective for weight loss as land-based exercise.

Jaci Van Heest, exercise physiologist of the United States Swimming Association, says although elite swimmers and runners burn about the same amount of calories while training, top swimmers have three to five percent more body fat than top runners.

Researchers at the University of Florida have confirmed that there is indeed a connection between cold-water exercise and appetite.

They compared the energy used and calories consumed after riding a stationary bike submerged in cold water (68°F) and warm water (91.4°F).

Participants burned 517 calories in cold water then consumed 877 calories. When they exercised in warm water, they burned 505 calories then consumed 608 calories.

That's why scuba diving could open up my appetite like no other activity could.

No guarantee

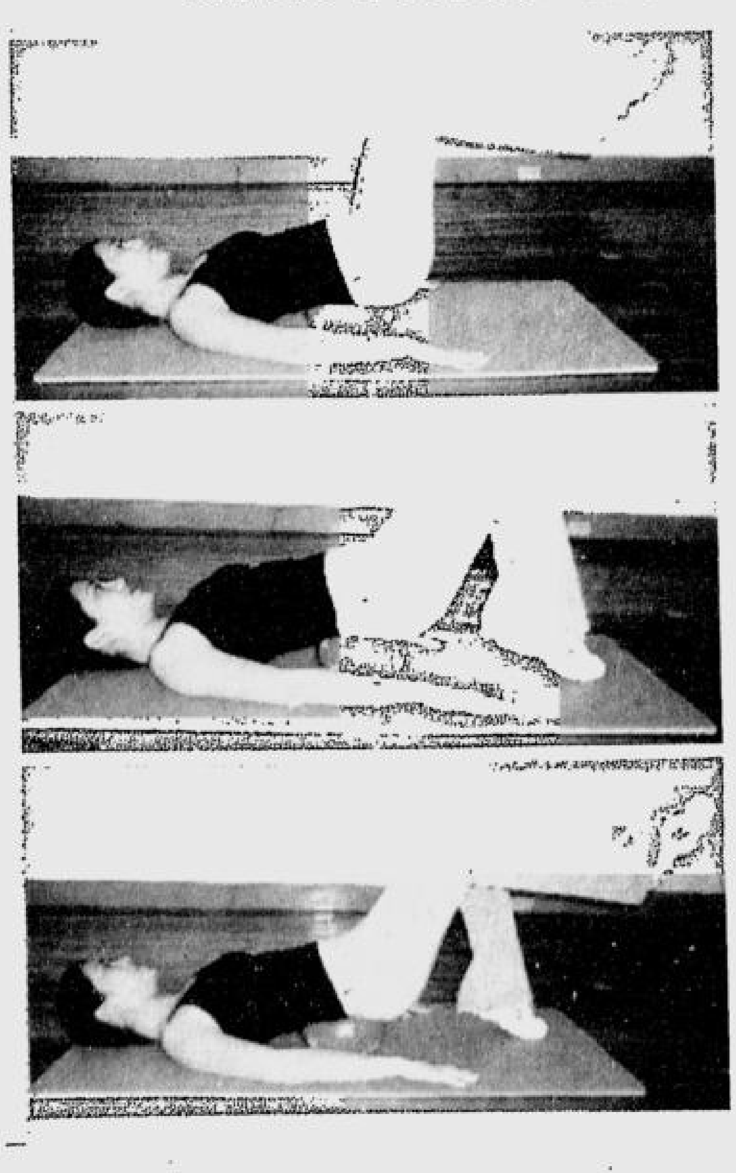
The message is that exercise does not guarantee weight loss if you will overcompensate for the calories burned. That goes for both men and women. A study last year illustrated that less was sometimes more. Male participants did either one set or three sets of upper body weight lifting exercises for two months. Both groups became 21 percent stronger but the group that lifted only one set had a greater fat loss (19 percent) than the group that did three sets (10 percent).

Calorie overcompensation was the suspected reason.

Next week: food and appetite
Visit.wwwtinajuanfitness.info

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Bent leg lower and raise on mini ball



TIGHTENS and tones abdominal muscles as well as muscles in the front of the thigh

Equipment:

Exercise mat and mini ball

Exercise technique :

1. Lie on your back with the mini ball under your pelvis.
2. Bend your legs and raise them over your hips.
3. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you lower both legs.
4. Lower the legs only as far as you can maintain tightness in the abs, then raise the legs to the starting position.
5. Do the desired number of repetitions.

Performance tips :

1. Do not allow your lower back to arch while you are lowering your legs. Maintain a certain amount of tightness and contraction in your abdominal muscles to prevent your lower back from excessively arching and flattening as you do the exercise.
2. The goal of the exercise is to keep your torso and abdominal muscles stabilized while you lower and raise your legs. Lower your legs only as far as you can stabilize your abs.
3. Inhale as you lower your legs; exhale as you raise them.
4. Beginner option: Lower and raise one leg at a time.

Repetitions :

Do 10 repetitions.

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

How is Primary Complex avoided?

Take Charge Doc!

Primary Complex or Primary Koch's is a very common clinical entity among children in the Philippines. It is an initial infection of Tuberculosis. The causative agent is Mycobacterium tuberculosis. The infection occurs after inhalation of the infective droplet nuclei containing the TB bacilli. Environmental factors, especially poor air circulation enhances transmission and increases when the patient has an acid fast smear of sputum (TB bacilli), an extensive upper lobe infiltrate or cavity, copious production of thin sputum, and severe and forceful cough. The primary complex of tuberculosis includes local infection of the lungs and the regional lymph nodes. The Mantoux Tuberculin skin test as well as chest x-ray is a useful diagnostic tool. Possible exposure to an adult with or at high risk for infectious pulmonary tuberculosis is the most crucial factor for determining risk for children. Since transmission is increased with poor ventilation it is prudent to avoid crowded places.

This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our five-year medical service provider from Bethany Hospital and Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban City, Dr. Jean Ho Chu. Dr. Chu specializes in Pediatric Pulmonology

She earned her medical degree from University of Sto Tomas in 1991, followed by her residency training in pediatrics in 1995 from Philippine Children's Medical Center. She later had her fellowship for a sub-specialization in Pulmonary Medicine in 1998. Dr. Chu is affiliated with the Philippine Pediatric Society -Central Cebu Eastern Visayas Chapter, Philippine Academy of Pediatric Pulmonologists and Philippine Medical Association-Leyte Medical Society. MEDICard members may visit her for consultation services at Bethany Hospital, Room 123, Mondays to Saturdays from 9am to 12noon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

THE SOCIAL PACK: Bernie Aboitiz with Rose Hennessy and Iris Arcena

DUMAGUETE'S Connection: Tico Aldenese, society columnist Manolet Tevez, and Bacolod and Tatler's society columnist, world-traveler Edouard Garcia

BUSINESS tycoons Douglas Lu Y and Ernie Aboitiz

SUPER HEAD-TURNERS: Grace Colmenares and June Ugarte

TATLER'S glitzy Cebu launch: A toast to Cebu: Usec. Phineas Alburro with Tatler's GM, Lynne Palma; Tatler society and lifestyle editor *moi*; Cebu City's First Lady, Margot Osmeña; Tatler's publisher, Irene Martel Francisco; eye-catching Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia; and editor in chief Anton San Diego

SERINE and Daniele Vastolo with Maggie Garcia

WORLD-TRAVELER Bimbo Gapud and head-turner Genny Puno, mega director of public relations of Nexus Resort in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Cebu's 'alta sociedad' welcomes a 'kindred spirit'

IT was raining in Cebu when one of the country's ultra *alta sociedad* magazine, the Philippine Tatler, in cooperation with the renowned Smart Infinity, hosted a cocktail reception at the world-class Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort and Spa, *palanggas*.

The grand happening took months of planning, requiring several trips to Cebu by the Philippine Tatler *famille*, led by managing director and woman of substance, **Irene Martel Francisco**; cyber smart general manager, attractive **Lynne Palma**; editor in chief **Anton San Diego**; society editor **Maurice Arcache**, as in *moi* (as if you didn't know, *palanggas*), with top of the line society and wedding photographer **Alex Van Hagen**; and Tatler's secret weapon, marketing officer **Mario José**.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Shangri-La Mactan's dedicated general manager, **Timothy Wright**, with everyone's favorite, the popular director of communication, good-looker **Neil Rumbaoa**, and talented director of events, **Ruby Ortiz**, went all out to make sure the glitzy event was a smashing success. It was, dahlings.

Candles and roses

The foyer of the Mactan Ballroom was draped in an off-white material that fell in soft folds. Twenty huge black cylinders holding tons of crimson roses hanged from the ceiling creating an image of a hanging garden. Candles were scattered all over the foyer.

All the gorgeous magic was superbly executed by that woman of style, Cebu socialite **Teresing Mendezona**, and lady of taste, **Pinky Chang**, who were a joy to work with.

Cebu's stunning and brilliant governor, **Gwendolyn Garcia**, was looking divine as she welcomed the Philippine Tatler to Cebu.

The star city's elite was in full attendance, *palanggas*, for Tatler's formal launch party in Cebu. Present were the mayor of Cebu, **Tomas Osmeña**, with his wife, **Margot Vargas**; business tycoon **Douglas** and **Annabelle Luym**; low-profile old-wealth couple, **Louie Aboitiz** and **Annie Osmeña**, with their daughter **Mary Ann Arculli**; Undersecretary of Tourism **Phineas A. Alburo**; consul general of Austria, **Artadio Alegrado**; in-demand honorary consul of Spain in Cebu, *el simpatico* **Jaime Picornell** and wife **Cecilia**; honorary consul of France in Cebu, **Richard Fourteau**; **Butch Carungay**; **Iris Arcenas**; fashion designer **Jun Escario**; **Nico delos Santos**; editor in chief of Expedition Travel Magazine, our pal **Bimbo Gapud**; Makati Shangri-La's hard-to-beat secret weapons, GM **Jarlath Lynch**, and his girl Friday, smart director of communication, **Joy Wassmer**; **Kasper Andersen** and **Michael Noejbjerg** of Scandinavia Trend; **Geny Puno** and **Paullete Menacio**, plus tons of others like them too beautiful to mention.

Pride and joy

In her short message, that incredibly smart managing director, Irene Martel Francisco, said, "We hope you will welcome the Philippine Tatler and our other publications into your hearts and homes. We take pride and immense joy in bringing you the best and the latest in the social, business and cultural life of the Philippines. This would certainly not be complete without coverage of Cebu! We want to have the privilege of reporting on your events and life in this wonderful Star City of the south."

Then the event really got rolling. Red J. Bouchon Merlot wine and the bubbly Möet et Chandon champagne flowed endlessly, as the waiters passed around cold and hot canapes. The excellent finger food was prepared by the hotel's grandmaster chef, **Trevor Stevens**, *palanggas*. Other invitees, like me, stuck to the Cheese Station. Mmm, yummy.

That absolutely fab singer, **Bituin Escalante**, was at her usual best, getting Cebu's chi-chi pack to rock the place, so much so that, even after her last number, the pack danced on and on like till forever.

It was one of Tatler's really chic events. Its great partner for the evening, the one-of-a-kind Smart Infinity, was represented by hotshot young brand manager, Southern gent **Tom Valderrama**, no less.

For extras, a raffle was held with tons of Marks & Spencer gift certificates won by some lucky invitees.

But the event didn't end there, *palanggas*. The whole party rocked on to the hotel's hottest night spot, the Kowrie Cove, at the beach front.

Like I've always said, hey, when the Cebuanos party, they really party hard, and they did!

GIFT Gate's handsome Italian Cebuano Matteo Guidicelli

CEBU'S woman of substance, Annie Osmeña Aboitiz

GOOD-LOOKING southerner, Tom Valderrama

SHANGRI-LA Makati's cyber smart director of communications Joy Wassmer

SHANGRI-LA Makati's irreplaceable well-loved GM Jarlath Lynch

MAYBELLINE Te with businessman Richard Stolzman

BAG designer Joanna Maitland-Smith with her husband, Michael Lhuillier

HANDSOME Alex Klepp with fashionable Jaja Chiongbian

JANEL Gaisano with Shangri-La Mactan's director of communications, Neil Rumbaoa

CEBU'S Nelia and Lotlot Neri

WINE connoisseur Dondi Joseph with columnist and businessman, Bovit Avila

MYRA Gonzalez and Noni Uy

TIMOTHY Wright

THE FAB Bituin Escalante

WATERFRONT'S brilliant GM, Marco Protacio

TATLER gal, Mary Ann Aboitiz Arculli

JOJI Dingcong

TERESING Mendezona who did the venue's fantastic decoration, with Zeny Deen and Pinky Chang

POPULAR Cebu personalities: entrepreneur Gianluca and Glena Guidicelli with Corrine Joseph, Sandra Pesch and Joanna Lhuillier

FUTURE debs: Carissa Garcia with Holly Dychangco, Mia Arcenas and Sarah Dychangco

CEBU'S hot bachelors: Anton Quisumbing, Paco Jarque, Eduard Loop and Mikel Sala